



COUNCIL IS OWED £2.5M IN TAX

Report by Heather Large

DUDLEY Council is owed £2.5 million in unpaid council tax from last year, new figures reveal.

Thousands of council tax accounts were not paid in full by the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

Council chiefs say they are committed to recovering outstanding debts.

Despite the outstanding payments, bosses say the authority has an 'excellent track record' for clawing back money owed.

Councillor Judy Foster, the council's deputy leader, said: "Thankfully, the vast majority of people in Dudley borough pay their council tax on time."

"Where people are struggling to pay we have a number of ways we can offer help and support."

"We have an excellent track record when it comes to the collection of council tax and any outstanding money, which makes us one of the top performing local authorities nationally."

"There are fewer than 12,000 accounts owing council tax for last year in the Dudley borough, which amounts to £2.5m owed for 2014/15. We are continuing to recover outstanding debts."

Anyone who misses a payment instalment is sent a reminder letter. They are given seven days to bring their account up to date by paying the overdue instalment.

Summons

If payment is not made, a summons is requested from the magistrates' court. No more than three reminders are issued in a financial year.

Across the border in Sandwell borough, a total of 19,628 council tax accounts were not paid in full by the end of the 2014/15 financial year. This has left the council needing to chase £2.2m.

Figures released by Dudley Council earlier this year showed around £1.5m in council housing rent was owed by tenants across the borough — up by 29 per cent on 2012/13. Sixty council tenants were evicted between April 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 after falling behind on payments.

The council needs to make savings of £22.9m in 2015/16, moving up to £25.3m by 2016/17 and £27.4m by 2017/18. But the council has warned it faces a deficit of approaching £30m by 2017/18 if additional savings are not found.

More than 130 jobs will be axed by Dudley Council in a bid to cut costs.

The council is looking to make 134 voluntary and two compulsory redundancies in 2015/16. Council leaders said they had worked to keep compulsory redundancies to a minimum.

It follows the loss of more than 700 posts during the previous four years.

Cost-cutting proposals include plans to turn off some street lights after midnight, saving £100,000 by 2018.

GO HOG WILD FOR THE ELEPHANT'S TINY COUSIN



Customer services team member Robert Dickie with Tellie, one of the Madagascan tenrecs delighting visitors to Dudley Zoo

AFRICAN 'hedgehogs' Eccles and Tellie are stealing the show at Dudley Zoo.

The Madagascan tenrecs are starring in the zoo's Go Wild! shows, and appearing in school workshops after staff get them ready to greet young visitors at the Castle Hill attraction.

Customer services team member Robert Dickie has been doing handling training with the pair which, although they look like hedgehogs, are entirely unrelated to the spiny animals familiar from British gardens and hedgerows.

The lesser hedgehog tenrec is actually a

cousin to such animals as elephants, aardvarks, and sea cows and not closely related to hedgehogs at all.

Presenter Dorrie Hall said: "Eccles and Tellie are enjoying meeting our Little Zoo Keepers and school children and the visitors love finding out more about these fascinating creatures."

Eccles and Tellie, arrived at the zoo last year and got their names from their taxonomic title, Echinops telfairi.

Dorrie added: "They are nocturnal creatures but are very active when they are

awake and don't keep still for very long. They are also great climbers, aided by their sharp claws. They are only size of a thumb nail when they are born."

Meanwhile, Dudley Zoo's recent Onesie Walk has been hailed a roaring success after pulling in £5,000 for animal conservation.

Proceeds from the second annual walk will be split equally between the zoo's own schemes and 21st Century Tiger, a charity which supports tigers in the wild.

More than 270 people wearing animal onesie outfits took part in the event.

STABBING

Man arrested over attempted murder

A MAN is being questioned on suspicion of attempted murder after another man was stabbed in the head in Dudley town centre.

The knifing took place in the early hours of Friday, shortly after midnight, near the derelict Gipsies Tent Inn in Stafford Street. A 34-year-old man was arrested more than nine miles away in Hockley, Birmingham, less than an hour later.

The 36-year-old victim suffered wounds to his head and shoulder and was taken to hospital with injuries that were serious but not life threatening. Contact police on 101 or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

CHILDREN

Work set to start on £30k play area

WORK will start next week on a £30,000 children's play area, which had been hit by delays.

Campaigners have welcomed the move to create the play area at the housing development on the old Wordesley Hospital site.

Delays occurred due to the installation of drainage systems but now developer Persimmon Homes has confirmed to ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley that work on the play area will start from Monday.

SPEEDWAY

Supporters trust to boost stadium bid

CRADLEY Heathens speedway club's plans to create a purpose-built stadium is being boosted by plans to start a new supporters trust.

Supporters have revealed plans to establish the trust at a meeting tonight at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Officials say the aims of the trust include raising cash towards the project to find land for a new track. The Heathens have been riding at Birmingham's Perry Barr Stadium this season.

The open meeting takes place at the club in Upper High Street, Cradley Heath, starting at 7.45pm.

INSIDE

COACH ERNIE IS A KNOCKOUT



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Move to downgrade new fire station

KINVER Fire Station could be stripped of emergency cover just months after it reopened following a £1.9 million rebuild.

The move is part of radical cost-saving plans that would see crews no longer respond to 999 calls from Kinver. The station would lose its fire engines, while crews would focus solely on community matters such as carrying out home safety checks and offering fire safety advice.

It comes just months after work to rebuild the station at a cost of £1.9m in Fairfield Drive was completed.

Kinver is among 18 fire stations in Staffordshire that could be affected by the plans which bosses say will help them save more than £4m.

Fifteen stations, seen as the most important in the county, have been ring-fenced from changes.

The proposals are for emergency cover to be removed from 18 fire stations and will see the number of engines reduced from 42 at 33 stations to 15 engines at 15 stations across the region.

The plan has been criticised by South Staffordshire MP Gavin Wil-

liamson, who said affected stations would become little more than 'glorified community centres'.

Councillors in Kinver have also been alarmed by the plans for their village station.

It was just four months ago that the sparkling new fire station was shown off at an open day, replacing the outdated building which had served the village for more than half a century.

The modern complex appeared to signal a bright future for the Kinver crew but the revelation that fire

engines may no longer respond from the station has sparked concern in the village.

Brian Edwards, who represents the village on South Staffordshire Council, said: "It is still early days. It is just a suggestion but quite honestly, to spend what has been spent on doing that and then to not use it for emergencies is totally ridiculous. That's my point of view. We would need to rely on Stourbridge from West Midlands or Wombourne."

Councillor Edwards said he would put his concerns to fire service bosses.

New naming ceremonies alternative to religion

A REGISTER office has started staging naming ceremonies for newborns.

The events at the Dudley office are also becoming popular as a way of embracing adopted children or stepchildren into families.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for corporate and customer services, said: "The ceremonies are for parents who want to celebrate and welcome their child into the world, but want an alternative to a religious event."

"They can choose music, words to be read out – the event can be tailored to whatever people want."

"It's a real family-friendly celebration where everyone can take an active part."

Grandparents

During the ceremony, parents, grandparents and other relatives and friends can make promises to the child.

Parents can share why they chose a particular name for their child and gifts can be presented.

Councillor Foster added: "These ceremonies are a chance for parents, grandparents and friends to contribute to welcoming the little one into the world, all in the beautiful setting of Priory Hall."

"They are also a way for people who have adopted a child to officially welcome them into their family. Or for people who have re-married to welcome stepchildren."

Although the ceremony has no legal effect, a certificate is issued as a keepsake and record of the event.

Raiders make off with pet supplies

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of pet supplies have been stolen from a shop in Netherton.

Among the goods taken from Ted's Pet Supplies in Halesowen Road were leads, collars, shampoo, treatments and toys.

Clare Worton, who runs the shop, said: "We are devastated. "We are a small family firm which struggles at the best of times but this has really demoralised us."

Clare's husband Mark discovered the break-in when he went to open the shop up on May 25 and found that the premises had been ransacked.

Anyone with information about the burglary should get in touch with officers at West Midlands Police on 101.

Grim discovery as horse found dead

A HORSE was found dead in the canal near the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge last week. A council team went out to the site on Wednesday evening to remove the horse. Anyone with information is urged to contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.

Apartments will not share killer's name

A RETIREMENT home complex has been renamed after developers realised the original proposal shared its name with a murderer who struck in the village.

McCarthy & Stone's Hagley development, which will be completed this year, had been advertised as Miller Court after Sanderson Miller who designed nearby Hagley Hall.

But it sparked memories of Victor Miller who in 1988 kidnapped and murdered local paper-boy Stuart Gough, aged 14.

The development of 44 apartments has been renamed Sanderson Court in memory of the architect.

It is 27 years since Stuart was kidnapped on his paper round and killed by warehouseman Miller. Stuart had been a student at Haybridge High School and was snatched by Miller, of Penn Fields, on January 17, 1988. Stuart's body was found 50 miles from his home in a wood near Ledbury, Herefordshire, two weeks later.

Discovery

The killer led police to the body. He admitted murder and was sentenced to life.

Gene Shaw, who has lived in Hagley for 30 years, said receiving the advert for Miller Court had brought back bad memories. She said: "It was horrible what that horrible man did."

Mrs Shaw's husband Gordon had been the chairman of the local community association while Stuart's father Geoff had been the president. Geoff Gough died in 2013 aged 82. He threw himself into community work in gratitude for the support of villagers and in 2005 was given an MBE.

Mrs Shaw, 70, said she was delighted the name had been changed.

Stuart's mother Jean Gough, aged 71, still lives in the village. She was not aware of the development but was pleased they had decided to rename it. "I am happy they have changed the name and I would like to thank whoever it was that got in touch with the developers," she said.

Gill Sabin, sales and marketing director for McCarthy & Stone, said: "We are pleased to unveil our new name, which has now been confirmed by Bromsgrove District Council and still reflects the rich culture and history of the the local area."

Bands are ready to rock village



Amie Moore and Charlotte Webb get ready for the Romstock festival with Mark Moran and Ian Allerton

MUSICAL acts have signed up for a mini festival in a village near Stourbridge.

Eight bands will perform at the Romstock concert in Romsley on Saturday. It will be the fourth successive year that the concert has been held in the village and will be held on the playing fields in St Kenelm's Road.

Romstock band co-ordinator Mark Moran, whose Oasis tribute band Okasis will be one of the bands performing during the con-

cert, said: "Every year it is getting bigger and better."

"It started with the Diamond Jubilee when someone suggested we have a band or two."

"This year there will be eight. There is a tremendous variety of bands, there is something for everyone."

The line-up includes rock covers group The Starving Dogs, acoustic female duo Interior Castle and popular chart covers band Got the T-Shirt.

Former Birmingham Poet Laureate Spoz will also be compere on the day.

Aside from the live music, there will be a children's play area, bouncy castle and skate park.

The bands have agreed to play for free and money raised from the event will be used to support youth community projects in the Romsley area.

Tickets cost £5 can be bought on the gate or in advance from the Spar store in Romsley.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Horse box blaze causes road chaos

MORE than 20 firefighters tackled a horse box and trailer fire at a property near Stourbridge.

A large amount of hay and a number of outhouses also went up in flames during the blaze on Monday.

The fire, which happened around 1.45pm, is thought to have spread from the horse box to hay nearby.

The blaze at Prestwood caused delays for motorists as the busy A449 Wolverhampton Road was closed, leading to traffic chaos. Traffic snaked back towards Kingswinford. The road was reopened at 4.30pm.

Royal Air Force band at Himley

THE Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment has joined this year's Armed Forces Day line-up at Himley Hall.

The event on June 28 will celebrate the work and sacrifices of servicemen and women.

The RAF band will be performing in the main arena. Under the direction of their Drum Major, Chief Technician David Cox and Band Master, Warrant Officer David Richards, the band will open formal proceedings in the arena at around 2.30pm and close the day by leading the spectacular Beating the Retreat at around 4.20pm.

Festival marking brewery birthday

A DUDLEY brewery is holding a mini beer festival to celebrate its third anniversary.

Fownes Brewery is based at The Jolly Crispin in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, and has won a number of awards at beer festivals around the country since it was started by brothers Thomas and James Fownes.

A range of their beers will be on sale at the event from July 10 to 12, which is also part of the Black Country Festival.

Woman hurts head in fall while riding

A WOMAN suffered head and shoulder injuries after being thrown from her horse on Clent Hills.

She had hit her head as she fell at the beauty spot, near Stourbridge. It is believed she was dragged for a distance before coming to a rest.

Emergency services were called just after 10.30am on Saturday. Paramedics had to board an all-terrain vehicle to reach the woman on the hillside. She was taken to Russells Hall Hospital for treatment.

Wedding ring cut off

A WOMAN had her gold wedding ring cut from her finger after she was injured in a fall. The lady and her husband went to Stourbridge Fire Station for help removing the cherished jewellery after hurting her hand when she took a tumble. Specialist cutters were used at her request on Saturday.

Registration now open for festival charity run

REGISTRATION is open for a charity run that is expected to attract hundreds of runners onto the streets of Halesowen.

Representatives from Stourbridge-based Mary Stevens Hospice have also committed to take part in The Black Country Road Run on July 5, which has been brought forward to that date to coincide with the Black Country Festival.

Hospice fundraisers are now calling on locals to consider choosing the Hagley Road hospice as their chosen charity.

Lucy Baylis, community fundraiser at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "We have a few of the staff lined up to take part in this year's run and we hope to be joined by plenty of other local people. The more money we can raise the better as it all goes to helping us continue to provide specialist care for people living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses."

Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival community group, said: "We're absolutely delighted the hugely successful run has been brought forward so it becomes an official part of the Black Country Festival. We're very confident that this involvement will boost numbers at the run and help raise even more money for charity."

The Black Country Run organisers include Halesowen & Rowley Regis Rotary Club and Maurice Endacott from Halesowen Cycling & Athletics Club, who is race director.

See www.theblackcountryrun.com

Councillor gets in her peak condition

A COUNCILLOR who scrutinises 'health and wellbeing' is putting herself to the test with a gruelling challenge to climb three mountains.

Natalie Neale, Tory opposition health spokeswoman on Dudley Council, has been training for the Three Peaks Challenge this month. She will join a team raising money for the Midlands Air Ambulance. The 42-year-old mother-of-three will climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon. The trek scales 9,800ft with 25 miles of hiking and 1,000 miles driving in 24 hours.

Councillor Neale, who represents Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, said: "We are trying to encourage sports for everyone for their own wellbeing. I thought I should practise what I preach."

Diesel fuel spill causes problem

MOTORISTS faced disruption after diesel was spilt by a vehicle, blocking one lane of a busy road in Quarry Bank.

A 300ft stretch was affected in Thorns Road on Friday afternoon.

Wait nearly over for new cafe in park



An artist's impression of the new cafe

THIS is the vision for a cafe being created as part of a £3.1 million revamp of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park.

Building work is well under way at the park ahead of the cafe's opening this summer.

An artist's impression, drawn by volunteer Evie Davenport, shows how an old print room and office in the tea rooms, previously used by council staff, will be transformed.

The work will include cladding the outside of the building to make it more attractive, introducing new large glazed doors and windows in

the roof to flood the space with light. Some changes have been made to the design including the addition of an access ramp not shown in the image.

The tea gardens will also be returned to their former glory, through the restoration of the existing steps and balustrades and improvements to the paths. There will also space for outdoor seating for the cafe.

Senior heritage park ranger Deborah Merrick said the project was progressing well and it was hoped the cafe would open in time for the school summer holidays.

Improvements will also be made to the Heath Pool, to include a viewing platform and the renovation of both the war memorial and bandstand.

The main Grade-II listed gates will be restored following a campaign by residents and councillors. A 'graffiti shelter' for teenagers will also be restored. It provides a display area for 'the creative production' of graffiti within the park.

A grant for the scheme has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Funding. The Friends of Mary Stevens Park group have been consulted.

Traders facing nervous wait before latest march

MARKET traders in Dudley are determined that it will be business as usual on Saturday when a far-right group descends on the town for a protest march.

The march by the All Football Firms/Fans March Against Islamisation group takes place from 1pm.

Chairman of Dudley Market Traders' Association Len Lenihan said they had confidence in the police plans to protect the town and wanted to carry on as normal.

"We haven't opened the last two times because of the numbers of people the two groups were expected to bring. But these numbers never materialised," he said. "This latest group is not as established so we do not believe they pose a threat."

A petition signed by more than 60 business owners against the march, which will be the third such protest in the town since February, has been presented to council bosses.

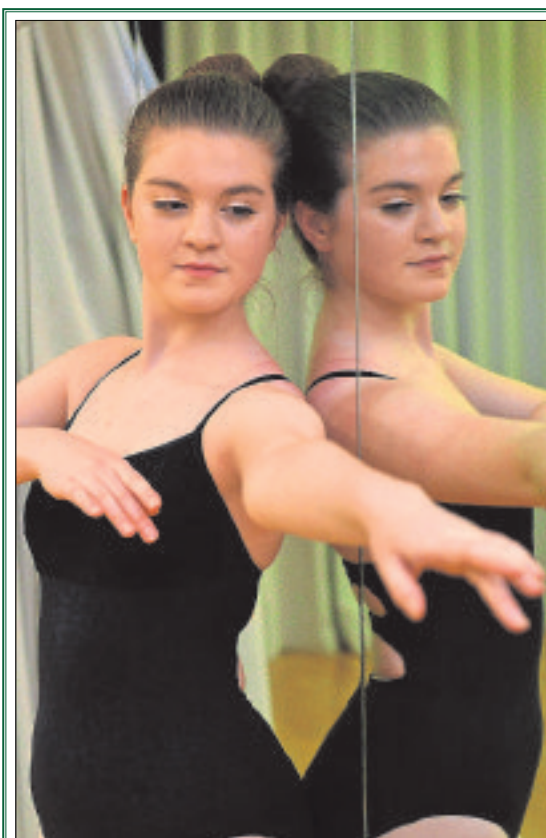
Some shopkeepers have decided to close, saying they need to protect themselves and their stores. But a large number have confidence in police and council plans to protect the town's shops on the day.

Tony Swannie, owner of indoor market Plaza Mall, told a meeting that many were too afraid to open. Many were concerned because they didn't know for sure how many people would be marching - although police have dismissed reports of more than 2,000. He said: "I will try and open Plaza Mall. It didn't work last time. Most of them are scared to open. No matter how much encouragement I gave them, even offering them rent free, they didn't want to risk it."

Dave Carter, new co-owner of the Arcade Toyshop, said he was prepared to open but added: "One of the things that concerns me is that we have just had our insurance policy and we are not covered for civil disobedience."

Police say they can manage the march. A counter march is also planned.

The All Football Firms/Fans March Against Islamisation group insists it is not coming to cause trouble. In a statement the group said: "We are not a bunch of thugs, Nazis or racists. We are not coming to Dudley to cause trouble or distress, we are coming to have our say against the slow but steady Islamisation of the country. I would strongly stress to the local traders that they need not close up, we could even increase their custom for the day."



Emily O'Connor, aged 16 from Lower Gornal, will be joining the English Youth Ballet for performances of Swan Lake at a Shropshire theatre

Teenage ballerina has Swan Lake role

A SCHOOLGIRL ballerina from Dudley has the opportunity of a lifetime after being cast in a theatre production of Swan Lake.

Emily O'Connor will appear in her first professional production at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn after impressing a panel of judges.

The 16-year-old, from Lower Gornal, was one of nearly 200 young dancers to audition for English Youth Ballet.

She will play a swan in the famous ballet production during three shows in front of a large audience at the theatre on July 10 and 11.

It is the reward of a lot of hard work for the schoolgirl, who has been dancing since the age of four.

Emily studies GCSE dance at Ellowes Hall Sports College in Dudley, and also at Livingston Academy, a dance and drama school in Wednesbury.

Emily said: "It is going to be very exciting, obviously there will be some nerves but it will be good. It's a big opportunity."

Emily's dance teacher Rebecca Giles said: "She is an extremely committed young lady."

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"WOMAN sent to jail for noisy sex" (Guardian website headline). Sounds like the best place for it.

IT must be June. The first advert for Santa's Magical Lapland has popped up in my emails.

I KNOW little about football and even less about Fifa. But it's not hard to understand why Fifa is revered in some parts of the world. Fifa gives them lots of money. To us in the affluent, oh-so-principled West, handing out dosh stinks of corruption. But across half the world's surface, that is simply how business is done: I want your support, so here's a little present. And while we in the developed world may gasp in horror at such practices, let's not forget that the worst financial crisis this planet has ever seen was caused by smart West-erners in expensive suits who would never dream of paying a bribe but siphoned off billions from honest little investors and caused more anguish in a few weeks than Fifa has caused in 100 years. When the Third World looks to the West for inspiration, what sort of example does it see?

THE report on appalling cruelty to greyhounds in Australia is horrifying but you don't have to go all the way to Oz to find it. Every year in Britain thousands of greyhounds, having reached the end of their career or failed to win races, are allegedly slaughtered or abandoned. Estimates vary between 4,000 and 12,000 healthy dogs killed every year. In the United States greyhound racing has been outlawed in 39 states. Over here, the governing body, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, says it is "committed to working to raise standards of care still further." The League Against Cruel Sports denounces the



rules as "little more than a crook's charter" and continues the fight, doggedly.

CLIMATE change is taking the place of religion and, like all religions, does not deal in half measures; there is only right and wrong, good and evil, heaven and hell. But real life is shades of grey. Scientists in Africa report that a rise in greenhouse gases has actually increased rainfall south of the Sahara. The droughts are over. The land has blossomed. The people can at last feed themselves. For them (and for how many millions of others?) climate change is a change for the better.

"RUBBER" is not the only word which causes confusion between Brits and Yanks (and thanks for all your contributions on the subject). I am reminded of a moment's confusion some years ago on a trip to the Deep South with a company of English TA soldiers, one of whom asked a trooper of the Arkansas National Guard if he'd like a bag. We almost had a diplomatic incident.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Police concern over further cuts

WEST Midlands Police could face extra cuts of £26 million, the equivalent to 500 officers, senior officers are warning.

Bosses fear they could be asked to cut between two and five per cent of their overall budget when Chancellor George Osborne reveals the details of his post-election budget in July. The savings come on top of the need to cut £120m over the next four years.

Mike Williams, chief financial officer at the Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, said he had 'intelligence' that the Treasury was looking at a further cut to the Home Office.

He also warned that civil servants are 'closely looking at' the amount of cash forces are holding in reserves.

West Midlands Police last year spent £7m of its reserves to support

frontline services, including recruiting 450 officers.

Chief Constable Chris Sims told the Strategic Policing and Crime Board he had concerns over further cuts. He said: "I would be concerned about other police forces and other partners. If we get five per cent, local authorities will get five per cent and there is a ripple effect. I am concerned about what happens."

West Midlands Police is already looking to axe up to 2,500 officers over four years. That could rise to 3,000 if further cuts are announced in Mr Osborne's first budget in a Conservative Government.

Mr Williams said: "I learnt through various intelligence that we could be looking at a two to five per cent reduction." The Treasury would not comment on budget 'speculation'.

More towpaths being upgraded for cyclists

By Rob Cox

CANAL towpaths across the Black Country will be spruced up as part of a £4.2 million package of improvements to encourage cycling and walking.

Links between canals will be created and existing cycle routes refurbished as part of the scheme, with work to get underway this week.

The 'Managing Short Trips' project is being carried out by public transport co-ordinator Centro in partnership with the Canal and River Trust and councils in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Money for the scheme has been provided through a growth fund which supports projects that benefit the local economy.

Areas of canal towpath forming part of national cycle route 81 running from Aberystwyth to Wolverhampton will be improved.

Build

Councillor Roger Lawrence, chair of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, said: "We have already seen great improvements to walking and cycling facilities in our area through the Smart Network, Smarter Choices project and this scheme will really allow us to build on that.

"This funding will help us breathe new life into some of the canal towpaths, some of which date back to the 18th century, and improve routes for people travelling by bike or on foot."

A section of national cycle network 54 at Pensnett Trading Estate in Kingswinford will also be refurbished as part of the project, as will part of route five, which runs from Reading to Holyhead, at Smethwick. A canal towpath route from Walsall town centre to Midland Road will be established and new links to Moseley Park in Wolverhampton will be created.

The Canal and River Trust has welcomed work which will see more than 16 miles of towpath improved.

Number one in maths challenge



It adds up to success — pupils from Bellevue Primary School with Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho

BRAINY pupils at a Black Country school are celebrating after winning the ultimate maths challenge.

The Belle Vue Primary School youngsters from Year Three and Four competed against seven other schools across Dudley borough.

The final, which took place last week at Saltwells Education Centre, consisted of six rounds which tested pupils on a range of maths topics and puzzles.

Maths co-ordinator and maths teaching specialist, Debbie Harper, said: "I am so proud of our pupils they worked so well as a team. They are all from different classes in the school and were selected by their teachers because they have a real flair for maths.

"There was no pressure put on them, the rounds were

all based on topics that they cover in the lessons, so it was great to see that they had taken on everything in lessons so well.

"They have all been working incredibly hard to prepare for their final round and they certainly proved that they know their stuff. Myself and the school are incredibly proud with their achievement."

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, presented the prizes to the team from the school in Lawnswood Road, Stourbridge, which were donated by local businesses.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "It is fantastic that these young students are getting a chance to showcase their considerable talents."

Threats by road rage thug result in jail term

A THUG from Dudley who terrified a woman motorist in a road rage incident has been locked up for seven months.

The woman drove into trouble when Karl Johnson was forced to brake sharply as she pulled out in front of him at a junction in Long Lane, Halesowen.

The victim feared her car was going to be rammed as the furious 28-year-old followed, tailgating her vehicle for some distance before he overtook her and forced an emergency stop.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that on April 19 father-of-three Johnson — who had a suspended prison sentence hanging over him for possession of a machete — got out of his vehicle, threatened to strangle the woman and told her: 'You are going to die'.

Kicked

He kicked her car, damaging the bodywork, as she tried unsuccessfully to drive away.

Miss Samantha Crabb, defending, conceded that Johnson was completely in the wrong.

Johnson, from Buffery Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to both using threatening words and behaviour and causing criminal damage.

He was jailed for eight weeks with a further 20 weeks added to the custodial term due to the suspended sentence order he had breached by committing a further offence.

Six arrested in tax frauds probe

SIX people, including three from the Black Country, have been arrested by customs officers on suspicion of tax fraud.

HM Revenue and Customs officers arrested the four men and one woman on last week.

The alleged self-assessment tax fraud totals £200,000 and the cases are not connected.

Those arrested are a 36-year-old man from Wolverhampton who voluntarily gave himself up at a police station, a 44-year-old man from Stourbridge, a 32-year-old man from Dudley, a 36-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman from Birmingham and a 32-year-old man from Dorchester, Dorset.

The six people were questioned and are bailed until December 3.

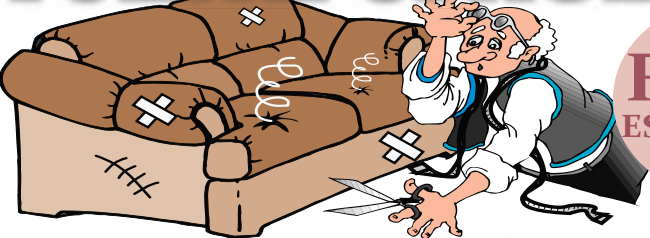
Quarry Bank meeting to raise local issues

RESIDENTS can raise issues with councillors at a meeting. The Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews and Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood Community Forum will be held on Tuesday at Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street, at 6.30pm.

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Guided walk at country estate

A GUIDED walk around Himley Estate, near Dudley, is being held on Saturday, June 20 from 10.30am.

The two-hour trek will include the opportunity to visit the Earl of Dudley's Memory Garden at the end of the walk. Places need to be booked on (01384) 817817.

Open days are being held at the Memory Garden on that day from 11am to 4pm and on Sunday, June 21, from 1pm to 3.30pm with small admission charge at the garden. For more details visit dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/himley-hall

Beers by bus to mark special day

A CELEBRATION of Black Country beers is being brewed up for a new event.

A Black Country Beer Day, led by the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, is being organised for July 11.

The event, which will involve a trip around Dudley's best pubs by scheduled bus services, will take in eight different pubs associated with local breweries.

It will be part of a series of events taking place in Dudley borough to celebrate Black Country Day on July 14.

Hospital's nurse director retires

A DIRECTOR of nursing at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital has retired after 35 years. Denise McMahon started her career aged 16 as a cadet before beginning nurse training at Walsall Manor Hospital in 1978.

"My time here has truly been a pleasure. It has been a privilege to work with such a wonderful team," she said.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "It's been an honour to work with Denise."

Music and picnics in grounds of museum

A MIDSUMMER concert will be held in the grounds of a Black Country mansion.

Half-timbered former farmhouse Oak House in West Bromwich will host the event on Sunday evening, June 21, when families can take a long a picnic to enjoy whilst listening to live music. Tickets cost £4 per adult and £2 per child aged under 12. They need to be booked in advance either in person at the museum or by calling 0121 553 0759.

Students show art

STUDENTS from Dudley College are showcasing their creative work in a five-day art exhibition.

Artsfest opened on Monday and will run until tomorrow (Friday) at Dudley Evolve in Tower Street, and at Dudley Sixth in Edname Road, from 10am to 5pm each day.

Mayor has put focus on borough volunteers

THE search for nominations has been launched for the best volunteers in Dudley.

Awards for the Dudley CVS Volunteer Awards 2015 will be presented in October.

People and groups across Dudley borough are invited to put forward their favourite individual volunteers or group of volunteers.

There are various categories for which awards are presented and the closing date for nominations is August 21. The awards ceremony will be held on October 15.

Nomination forms can be picked up from borough libraries and Dudley Council Plus or downloaded from www.dudleycvs.org.uk. Alternatively, call Dudley CVS on (01384) 573381.

Dudley's new mayor Councillor Steve Waltho performed one of his first civic duties when he took a tour of voluntary groups in the borough. He began and ended his tour at the former day care centre in Stafford Street, Dudley, which has been extensively refurbished after being empty for more than three years.

Next stop was the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Coseley to meet representatives of Just Straight Talk, helping unemployed young people into work, education or training. He heard about the Coseley Big Local community project, which promises at least £1 million investment in East Coseley.

Then it was over to the Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley and then the mayor was inducted as Volunteering Champion for Dudley borough.

Cricket match to stump up cash

HOWZAT for charities — Dudley councillors will take on council officers in a cricket match to stump up cash for the mayor's charities.

The two sides will compete tomorrow evening (Friday) at Stourbridge Cricket Club's ground. The teams will take to the wicket from 6pm.

The event will also include a raffle and people are urged to turn up to help raise money for the local charities supported by Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho. Admission is free. The mayor's charities are The Hope Centre, Halesowen; The What Centre, Stourbridge; More Mascots Please, Brierley Hill; The Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital; and West Midlands branch of Lupus UK, based in Coseley.

Fun event is to be held at park

NETHERTON Park in Dudley is to host a family fun day on July 4.

The event will feature live bands, stalls, children's rides, a classic car display and dance, from 10am to 9pm. Entry is free.

Thousands face losing their home

MORE than 5,000 homes across six areas of the West Midlands faced either repossession or having their tenants evicted in the past year.

And one in 74 people in Sandwell alone are under threat of losing their home through eviction or repossession, new figures have shown.

Sandwell is the area most at risk with 1,652 claims for repossession or eviction with Wolverhampton close behind, where one in every 93 properties is under threat. There are 1,096 claims for eviction or repossession in Wolverhampton in the last year.

Housing charity Shelter compiled the figures revealing 840 people across the West Midlands were put at risk of losing their home every week.

In an analysis of statistics from the Ministry of Justice, the charity identified how many people are at risk of eviction and repossession.

Dudley had 941 cases of repossession or eviction claims — one for every 138 homes.

In Walsall it was 791 cases or one in 136. Wyre Forest had 411 claims, one in every 105 homes and in Cannock Chase it was 262 cases or one in 155 homes at risk.

Staggering

Alison Mohammed, Shelter's director of services, said: "These staggering figures show just how many people are fighting to keep their families in their homes."

Problems due to booze are worse in Dudley

THOUSANDS of people are being admitted to hospitals across the Black Country and Staffordshire because of alcohol, figures reveal.

And in the Black Country the numbers are higher than the average across England for 2013/14.

In Wolverhampton there were 1,566 people per 100,000 admitted due to booze, while the figures were 1,393 in Sandwell, 1,373 in Dudley and 1,321 in Walsall, with 1,105 in Staffordshire. The England average is 1,253.

There also continues to be huge variations between the most deprived and the least deprived areas — hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions were 55 per cent higher in the most deprived.

The figures also show a drop in the rate of hospital admissions due to alcohol among under-18s, which Public Health England said was evidence of a continuing decline in young people's harmful drinking.

Nationally, alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under-18s over the last three years are down to 13,725 — a fall of 41 per cent against the earliest comparable figures, 22,890 between 2006 to 2007 and 2008 to 2009.

Higher

However, locally under 18s admissions were all higher than the national average of 40.1 per 100,000, apart from Wolverhampton where the figure was 34.3. In Dudley it was 45.9, with figures of 48.8 in Walsall and 43.1 in Sandwell.

Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England, said: "The decline in hospital admissions from alcohol for under-18s is promising but current levels of harm caused by alcohol remain unacceptably high."

"This is especially true within the most deprived communities, who suffer the most from poor health in general."

"Much of this harm is preventable and we need further action at a national and local level to implement the most effective evidence based policies."

"Public Health England will continue to provide leadership and support to local areas to reduce the devastating harm that alcohol can cause to individuals, families and communities."

According to the figures, men in the 55 to 75 age range are the most likely to be admitted to hospital due to alcohol misuse.

Pirates and princesses at the castle



Pirates and Princesses is the theme for the under fives Picnic Party to be held at Dudley Zoo later this month

HUNDREDS of pirates and princesses are set to descend on Dudley Zoo for its annual under-fives picnic parties.

Staff are promising magic, entertainment and fun for youngsters on June 24 and 25.

There will be puppet shows, magic acts, bouncy castles, balloon modelling, story telling and face painting in the courtyard of Dudley Castle.

There will also be the chance to

meet Dudley Zoo's tiger mascot, Jambi, as well as getting close to furry friends in animal encounters.

Organisers say the highlight will be a fancy dress parade in the castle courtyard, when all princesses and pirates will be invited to show off their costumes and everyone taking part will be presented with a medal.

The zoo's Andrea Hales said: "Our under fives days are always

really popular and we've got a real action-packed programme this year. So make up a picnic, grab your pirate patches and princess tiaras and come and join us for a fun-filled day."

Goody bags will be on sale and there is also a tombola with chance to win Dudley Zoo souvenirs.

Advance tickets are priced £4, on 0844 474 2272. Tickets on the day will be priced £6.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

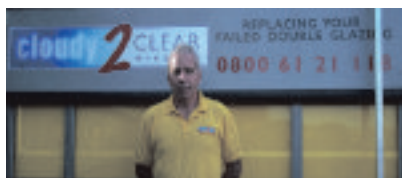
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



No more a Brummie than I am a Scouser

JERRY Blackett, the chief executive of Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce is one of two things.

He is either an extremely clever wind-up merchant – and if so, congratulations Sir, you really had me going – or he is living proof of why all the talk of devolving power to the regions will only be bad news for the Black Country.

I suppose the clue lies in the name of his organisation, but his latest vision of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and the area known as Sandwell all being submerged into a city region known as 'Greater Birmingham' perfectly sums up while we should all run for the hills at any suggestion of a combined authority for the urban West Midlands.

Explaining his rationale, Mr Blackett explains that in years to come the world economy may be dominated by 50 truly international cities. And he fears that without annexing its neighbours into the great vision, then Birmingham will be left behind.

And what exactly has that got to do with us? Look I really don't have anything against Birmingham.

As I said last week, it is a city which is unfairly maligned, and has much to commend it. But, how do I put this delicately? As a dyed-in-the-wool Black Country man, I have got no particular affinity to it either. It is a decent city, but it is not my city. I am no more a Brummie than I am a Scouser or Scotsman.

Languages

I do go to Birmingham a few times a year due to the simple fact that we have lost most of the decent shops in Dudley, but every time I get off the train at New Street I am struck by the fast pace of life, by the sheer volume of human traffic, and the different languages being spoken. It might only be 10 or so miles away, but culturally, it is a world away from the Black Country.

Nearly 30 years since the end of the last failed attempt to force a common identity on these very different areas, the unlamented West Midlands County Council, it seems we haven't learned a thing.

If there really is a need for regional government, and I'm far from convinced that there is, then it would be better to bring together places which are more similar in character, and have long-established cultural ties.

For example, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull would be a good fit, as would Wolverhampton, Walsall, Cannock and Stafford.

Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster go together pretty well, and we could call these new regions, I dunno, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Worcestershire.

To tell the truth, I'm amazed no-one has thought of it before.



Mayor of Sandwell, councillor Barbara Price, with Ernie



At the Talbot Amateur Boxing Club in the early 1980s



Ernie Locke seen training at Old Hill during the 1980s

Civic honour packs a punch for coach Ernie

RICHARD GUTTRIDGE meets up with Ernie Locke, who had a knockout surprise when he received a mayor's award

FOR more than three decades Ernie Locke has taken budding young boxers under his wing.

He has guided some away from a path that may otherwise have led them into crime, while also inspiring those who just wanted to reach their full potential as a boxer.

But as each potential pugilist has moved on from Old Hill Boxing Club in Cradley Heath, Ernie has remained, practice pads in hand, ready to welcome in the next gem in need of polishing. His commitment to the sport and to helping local youngsters has not gone unnoticed over the years and now he has been recognised for his hard work with the Mayor of Sandwell Certificate.

It was just another night of training at the gym, or so he thought, when the Mayor of Sandwell along with friends and family arrived to give him his award last Tuesday.

The 74-year-old grandfather admitted he was stunned to discover he had been nominated for recognition. "I am a bit shook up but it's absolutely great," said Ernie, who lives on Royal Oak Road, Rowley Regis.

Chuffed

"I was really taken aback, they kept it a surprise for me but now I've had some time to think about it I am really chuffed."

Ernie was put forward for the mayor's award by Jennifer Robinson, whose two sons, Aron, aged 19, and Brandon, 15, train at the gym.

Jennifer, 42, of Colley Gate, Halesowen, said it was about time Ernie got the recognition he deserved.

"He never asks for anything. He just does it for the love of the sport," she said. "He was shell-shocked – he didn't expect anything like that. His face was such a picture, he had no idea."

Ernie has spent four decades training



youngsters, first at the Talbot Amateur Boxing Club in Birmingham, before moving to Old Hill, which is based at the Reddall Hill Community Centre in Cradley Heath, in 1984.

The impact that Ernie has on youngsters was perhaps best reflected by the appearance of Tyler Denny at the ceremony.

The Rowley Regis prospect trained with Ernie in his teenage years and is hoping to achieve big things in the sport, having appeared in his first paid fight in Brierley Hill last month.

He returned to the gym with other boxers to see his former coach honoured by Sandwell mayor Barbara Price.

Councillor Price said: "It was a pleasure to give it to someone like Ernie who has given his time over the years. It is all voluntary and people like that who give their time should be recognised and given something back. It was



Ernie, of Rowley Regis, with his certificate, watched by boxers, family and friends, at the club

such a shock, he knew nothing about it. He didn't want anything back, he just gives and gives.

"It was thoroughly deserved and was a wonderful event."

His son, also called Ernie, said the role his father had played over the years had been much more important than that of a coach, and that he had left a lasting impression on young boxers.

"He has dedicated 40 years of his life to it and 31 have been at Old Hill," his son said.

"Rain or shine he is down that gym whenever he is needed. He takes all-comers no matter what background they are from."

"He has helped turn around the lives of people who have been involved in crime, they have gone on to get jobs and have got that respect back through doing it."

"He doesn't take a penny. If anything he

puts money into the club." His father was gripped by boxing from an early age. He boxed for his school, Britannia Road in Rowley Regis, before joining the boxing club at the Mitchells and Butlers brewery during the 1950s. It is a tradition

that has stayed in his family. His son Ernie was a professional boxer in the Midlands, appearing in around 50 fights, and now grandson Kieran has joined his club eager to learn skills from the master.

Ernie, who has eight grandchildren, admits he is still enjoying it, even if he can't move around quite as fast as he used to.

"I am still enjoying it. It's a bit difficult at my age but I still enjoy the match making and I still get in with the lads now and again," he said. "I have enjoyed every minute of it and all the coaches who have worked with me have been good lads."



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Black Country could lose identity

GEORGE Osborne says: "Black Country will not lose its identity in a combined authority with Birmingham." If you believe that you will believe anything.

In 1086 Sedgley was a large manor taking in the area of what is now known as Dudley, then west taking in Coseley. As the villages gained their own identity, Coseley became the largest borough in the country.

In 1974 Sedgley and all the small villages in that borough came under Dudley and lost all identity. Coseley was split three ways to Wolverhampton, Dudley, and a place with

a metropolitan name that never existed, Sandwell. Many more across the country have gone the same way.

The agreement Osborne wants is the thin end of the wedge, big is not always the best. Money will be given to Birmingham, the smaller towns and villages will lose out again. If we all class ourselves as people from the Black Country we must fight against it. Write and speak to your councillors and MPs now.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

Bad Matisse impression

WHAT a fraud that Matisse the dog on Britain's Got Talent was not the one that walked the two parallel ropes on the final of BGT.

Had the three dogs come on together at the end of their act with Jules O'Dwyer, the people would have understood, but it would have made such a huge difference to the voting.

The public voted for what they thought was Matisse carrying out the full act. We were all duped by this fraudulent performance.

The magician Jamie Raven should be declared the winner and the £250,000 handed to him. It reminds one of the phone calls scandal some years ago.

So, Simon Cowell, do the right thing and award the title of winner of BGT to the magician Jamie Raven.

B WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

More made stroke aware

WE would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in our annual Rotary Stroke Awareness day on Friday, May 22.

We had an amazing day with 147 people having on-the-spot health checks in Tesco's Superstore at Burntree Island. It was a great success by promoting the FAST message and highlighting the importance of health awareness with quite a few people being recommended to go on to get further check-ups from the NHS. Once again thank you to all who were involved.

ROGER EDWARDS
Dudley Stroke Association

Safe place to cross is needed

I HAVE read with interest over the past few weeks with regard to the dangers for pedestrians crossing the road to access the wonderful facilities at Halesowen Athletic & Cycling Club.

I note that some opinions are that the club is in the wrong place! What an absurd narrow minded argument. I wish to point out that the club was there long before the dual carriageway. I also note that the Abbey was there before this very dangerous road was built!

We should encourage our youngsters to use this facility. It has a wonderful history and I know from personal experience that there are genuine community-minded people involved in the club whose only desire is to channel the energies of our young into sport.

Anyone who argues against a safe crossing should reconsider. Think of the benefits to the wider community if more people take part in sporting activities. Dudley Council install a safe crossing!

M LEWIS
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Once in a lifetime European Union deal

DAVID Cameron has the chance of a lifetime available to him to revise our membership of the EU. I hope he is not going to waste it as it will never come around again.

From reducing the impact of laws on business to securing the primacy of our own courts, we need the PM to get all that is necessary from the EU. To get control of benefits to EU immigrants who have paid nothing into our system and to rectify the lunacy of human rights legislation which allows foreign criminals to remain in the UK, is too big a concern for most people to be put right.

The other members of the EU, especially Germany and France, cannot afford for us

to leave and, I believe, will be prepared to negotiate with us to ensure that, come the referendum next year, the British people will vote to retain membership.

The communal thinking of the British people during the recent General Election showed that they know when to make the right decision for this country.

I believe that they will know next year, when it comes to make the decision about membership of the EU, whether they have got a good deal or not.

I pray that David Cameron recognises this and takes the best advantage of this one chance.

M CALLADINE
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Short Heath United FC, one of the original teams to play in the Cup, in 1926



1928 FA Cup final ball



Shifnal Football Club, one of the original teams to play in the JW Hunt Cup



Looking at MBE medal, part of exhibition, is Alex Hamil



The MBE medal of JW Hunt Cup president Alex Hamil

89 years on and Cup is still hitting the spot

IT has been held for almost 90 years – a competition which has seen hundreds of footballers compete for the region's bragging rights.

And this year, organisers of the annual JW Hunt Cup are marking its 89th anniversary with a display of framed photographs, old match-day programmes and medals.

Amazing

The tournament, which was recently won for the second time in succession by Tividale FC, started in 1926 to raise funds for the benefit of local blind people.

When the takings from this year's tournament are counted, tournament chairman Alex Hamil MBE believes the grand total will stand at just over £300,000.

MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

He said: "It is wonderful to look back at the history of this tournament."

"It's longevity alone is amazing. Since it started, there hasn't been a year where it hasn't been held, including when the Second World War was taking place."

"This is what local football is all about and it is amazing to see how much the people in Wolverhampton love this tournament."

"The exhibition itself was a great success, people from all over the world who were visiting the Black Country Living Museum came and had a look, some even made a donation."

Former referee Mr Hamil teamed up with 2015 cup final referee Phil Reade, of Wednesfield, to publicise the display while it was at the museum at Dudley.

Each year, the final of the JW Hunt Cup, where teams compete

from the Birmingham, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire Football Associations, is held at Molineux. The inaugural winners were Short Heath United, who beat Cannon Iron.

The trophy is named in memory of John William Hunt, a local businessman and benefactor who founded the local Chillington Tool Company and was a supporter of local charities.

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The firm's trademark was the 'crocodile', and the crocodile is incorporated into the trophy handles. Mr Hamil said: "I don't think the original organisers could have imagined it lasting this long."

"However, today we are stronger than ever and I am looking forward to the future of the JW Hunt Cup."

The JW Hunt history exhibition will next go on display at the Goodyear Pavilion Club in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, on September 18, offering members of the public another chance to learn more about its unique past.



Wolverhampton Referees Association's Phil Reade holds up ball

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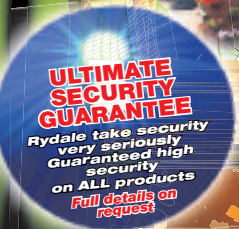
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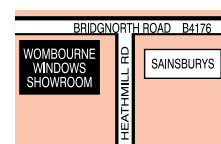
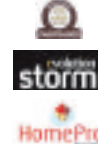


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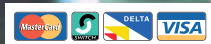
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Dedicated Wolves fan Joseph dies aged 13

A WOLVES Fan of the Year who won the heart of captain Danny Bath has died suddenly at the age of 13.

Joseph Thompson from Pensnett suffered from Duchenne Muscular Distrophy, a muscle-wasting disease that left him wheelchair-bound. He died on Thursday after suffering a heart attack.

The youngster, whose condition limited his movement and couldn't move his legs, had been admitted to hospital in Stoke on the Sunday before his death.

Joseph idolised Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club and was well known to the players and management after regularly meeting the team coach at away matches.

Wolves say they are planning a significant presence at the youngster's funeral.

Joseph won a standing ovation from more than 600 people at the club's end of season awards dinner when he was voted the Express & Star's Wolves fan of the Year in 2014.

Family

When he won the award, he hadn't missed a game for four years before being taken ill in March following a minibus crash which left him in intensive care in Birmingham Children's Hospital. When he was well enough to attend a game again, the club treated Joseph and his family - all Wolves fans - to a trip to Molineux and they organised seats in an executive box, from where they saw the 3-0 win against Sheffield Wednesday on March 17.

Joseph travelled with his father Jason to every game, despite operations, which left him needing a colostomy bag and metal rods in his spine.

His father had taken Jason to his first Wolves game, a pre-season



Joseph Thompson, 13, who has died after a heart attack, with his idol Danny Bath

friendly against Athletic Bilbao, and then to every game that followed as the youngster became smitten by Wolves. His father, who works as an upholstery supervisor in Telford, said the youngster had even attended training sessions.

Watching Wolves became a family

affair for the Thompsons, with father and son often joined by Joseph's sister Chloe and mother Jackie, a supervisor at Russell's Hall Hospital.

Brierley Hill-based Bath was Joseph's favourite. He had one of Bath's Wolves shirts, that the defender gave him after a match, above his bed.

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Hollywood stars flying flag for Black Country

FROM Hollywood to Dudley – six-time Oscar nominee Glenn Close, Bond girl Gemma Arterton and Staffordshire-born Paddy Considine were flying the flag for the Black Country when they arrived in Dudley to film a zombie thriller.

The A-list movie stars were among those filming scenes for She Who Brings Gifts.

They joined up-and-coming young British actor Fisayo Akinade posing with the flag during a break from filming at the old Guest Hospital, near the Black Country Living Museum, last weekend.

Steve Edwards, founder of the Facebook page The Only Way is

Dudley, asked if he could go on set as an extra.

“I took the flag and I didn’t know whether I would be able to meet them, but luckily I did and they were brilliant to chat to,” he said.

“They happily agreed to pose for a picture with the flag and I told Glenn Close she could keep it.”

The decaying hospital site has proved the perfect location for the apocalyptic drama set in a bleak future where most people have been turned into zombies by fungal infection.

The movie is based on the novel The Girl with All the Gifts by M. R. Carey.



Film stars Fisayo Akinade, Paddy Considine, Glenn Close and Gemma Arterton with the flag on set

Council chiefs online to answer questions

THE leader and deputy leader of Dudley Council will be put under the spotlight during an online community forum.

The public can quiz Councillor Pete Lowe and Councillor Judy Foster today (Thursday) from 6pm for an hour. People will be able to discuss issues from community funding and bin collections to multi-million pound regeneration projects and support for community groups.

Councillor Lowe said: “The online forums have been a massive success with thousands of people viewing the discussions online. I urge people to join us for the hour and discuss items of concerns or ways we can work together to improve our borough and council services.”

The hour-long online forum will kick start the latest round of community forums at venues across the borough from June 15 until 24. People can also ask questions via the @DudleyMBC Twitter feed using #DudleyLive

11,000 days are being lost to bed blockers

THE bed blocking crisis plaguing hospitals across the West Midlands is getting worse, latest figures have revealed.

Patients are spending more than 11,000 days in beds when they should have been discharged in a single month. A total of 11,248 days were lost to bed blockers in March, an increase of more than 1,000 on December, which was seen as a particularly busy month.

In Wolverhampton the number more than doubled to 1,740, while there were 984 at Dudley’s Russells Hall, 859 at Sandwell and West Birmingham trust and 50 in Walsall.

The Wolverhampton figure was up from 877 in December, while Dudley’s went up from 955.

But Walsall’s figure has dropped from 263.

Reasons for the hold-ups include waiting for beds to become available in care homes and delays in patients’ houses being fitted with equipment such as rails and stairlifts.

Referrals

It was previously revealed that 10,000 days had been lost to bed blockers in December and at the time health chiefs had argued that month was their busiest time of year.

But in many cases the problem has now got even worse, as the new figures show.

Paula Clark, chief executive at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, explained: “Delays in discharge inevitably have an impact on capacity and our ability to admit more poorly patients, especially emer-

By Adam Burling

gency patients, to a hospital bed.

“Almost two thirds of the delays in March related to patients whose transfer or discharge was waiting for an assessment to be completed.

This includes assessment by social care professionals to identify a patient’s future care needs and the most appropriate setting for that care.”

Gwen Nuttall, chief operating officer of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, said: “We have seen an increase in our delays in discharging.

“This is predominantly as a result of an increase in referrals to social care with patients waiting for assessments or allocations.

“The trust liaises regularly with social care partners across the Black Country and Staffordshire to minimise delays.

“We are also encouraging the principal of ‘home first’ from our clinical teams for patients and families – as we know many patients wish to return home after illness. This will help reduce delays in hospital.”

Lott of interest in iconic Golightly role

POP star Pixie Lott is coming to Birmingham in a play in which she takes on an iconic Audrey Hepburn role.

The Mama Do hit-maker will play Holly Golightly in a new production of Truman Capote’s Breakfast At Tiffany’s, turned into a classic 1961 movie starring Hepburn.

The play will be staged at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from April 18 to 23 next year, prior to a 12-week run in London’s West End.

A co-production with Leicester’s Curve Theatre, the New York-set play featuring music from the era, will begin its tour at the East Midlands venue in March, before arriving at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in June 2016.

Bromley-born Pixie, 24, was a popular finalist in last year’s series of Strictly Come Dancing and her other hits have included Boys And Girls, All About Tonight, What Do You Take Me For?, Kiss The Stars And Nasty. For tickets see www.atgtickets.com/birmingham or call 0844 871 3011.

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Talk is just sweet from chocolatier

MyTime Over Fifties

MEMBERS and visitors were given a delicious talk by chocolatier Jackie Smith. She and her husband Alan have their own company Nova Chocolates and both are passionate about producing high class chocolate. Alan acted as assistant, distributing samples, after Jackie had explained how to dissolve the chocolate slowly against the roof of the mouth to release its flavours.

Jackie gave a very informative talk on the history of chocolate, going back to the Amazon Basin where there are records of the Mayan people using the cacao bean as far back as 1500BC.

Beans were used for culinary, medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Women prepared the drink but only men drank it, as it was apparently too strong for women and children.

Cacao was introduced into Europe when Mayans were taken to the court of King Phillip of Spain in 1544. The drink spread slowly over the rest of Europe where work progressed in transforming the bitter drink to today's chocolate block.

Everyone listened to the health benefits of chocolate, but only if taken in moderation and as part of a healthy and diverse diet.

Meetings are at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Ambleside Room at Stourbridge Town Hall. The AGM is on June 24, when next year's programme will be announced.

Jan and Gill double up for president role



President Jan Beeson, left, installs Gill Atkins as the joint president Wolverhampton Soroptimists

THE recent AGM saw the club move towards its 79th year when members reviewed activities during the previous year, thanking outgoing President Jan Beeson and her executive committee, before welcoming two presidents who will serve the club this year.

The new presidents are Jan Beeson and Gill Atkins. Gill acted as president in 1975-76 and is celebrating 40 years as a Soroptimist.

In her address president Jan said she and Gill had met on several occasions and planned their year together. They both had the same ideas and plans and Jan knew they were going to be an excellent team.

Their charities this year will be local and will include Land Mines. Social events planned so include a visit to the dogs, a boat

trip and a Burns Night supper. The annual dinner will be a luncheon, booked for November 29.

President Jan also installed new club member Louise Clive to SI Wolverhampton and hoped she would enjoy her membership.

Members of the club would also be attending the SI Midland Chase Annual Conference at the Park House Hotel, Shifnal, where Kevin Curtis of Footprints Orphanage would be giving an update and would be presented with a cheque for £1,637.55 from Wolverhampton SI.

This year, club member Carol Bailey is President of Midland Chase Region.

MP becomes honorary member

Sedgley & Wombourne Rotary Club

Sedgley & Wombourne Rotary Club

the MP for South Staffordshire the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson.

Kingfisher, Wall Heath, every Thursday evening at 6.45 pm and new members are always very welcome.

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Grand night of giggles and guffaws

Hilarity Charity Gala, Wolverhampton Grand
TOP comedians lent their support to the city's Central Youth Theatre for the second annual gala and this year the cause is more acute.
Due to cuts the CTY, several of whose past members have careers in showbiz, face being made homeless unless they can raise £20,000 to convert the former Co-Op opposite the Grand Theatre into their new base.

Katherine Ryan couldn't make it due to illness but the two biggest names, Russell Howard and Greg Davies, delivered. Both have been off the live circuit for a while and were ring-rusty but were eye-watering funny thanks to their charisma and through both having eccentric mothers as a source of material.
The slickest comics were Welshman Elis James, recounting a bath time incident that would make any man

wince, and special guest Rob Beckett. Toothy Celebrity Jungle spin-off host Beckett was spot on with tips on how to wind-up telephone cold callers.
Daniel Kitson kept the other acts and hecklers on their toes as an edgy, subversive MC, whilst sketch act duo Lazy Susan (half ex-CTY) were surreal and trio Pappy's (two-thirds ex-CTY) got one of the biggest laughs of the night with their dinosaur tennis sketch. **LB**

Exploring a lexicon of laughs

Milton Jones, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
TOUSLE-HAIRED comic Milton Jones is a master of word play. A pun-slinger beyond compare (apologies to Tim Vine), Jones has stolen many a comedy panel show with a well-honed one-liner.
He is rare among comics in that he doesn't swear or resort to smut, which in this era makes him a true alternative comedian. His Temple of Daft show has a loose quest story which explains him appearing in a beard and hiking gear as his explorer grandfather, Randolph Digby-Jones, before returning in his familiar loud shirt.

The gags come fast. Few miss their mark and pay attention because another will whizz by seconds later. 'Anyone here been caught up in a bank robbery, hands up', 'I come from a family of failed magicians, I have two half sisters', and so on.

While constructing a story of sorts out of his lexicon of laughs, he mused if it was good to be paid to pretend to be a dinner lady made out of cheese. Surely a pickle many would relish. **LB**

REVIEWS



Twoee dance — a scene from Northern Ballet's popular production of Madame Butterfly

Passionate Butterfly takes flight for Northern Ballet's rare visit

Madame Butterfly, Perpetuum Mobile, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
A RARE visit to the West Midlands by Leeds-based Northern Ballet was warmly appreciated by dance fans.

This melodrama danced to music by Puccini, choreographed by the company's director David Nixon OBE, has been a mainstay for Northern Ballet for more than a decade.

The parasol-toting little maid geishas made me fear a Japanese 'twoee' ceremony but I was won over by the pain and sorrow expressed by Rachael Gillespie as the wronged Butterfly, abandoned by her American naval officer lover. Gillespie and Javier Torres, as the faithless Pinkerton, made a passionate and powerful pair in the

first act. Welcome comic relief came from Ashley Dixon as a matchmaker, Ayami Miyati as Butterfly's maid and Milind Kulashé as a pompous suitor.

Gillespie took centre stage in the second act with her suicide dance. Dispensing with Puccini, a Japanese lament played as, bathed in red light, Butterfly committed hara-kiri.

Before the grand drama, the company showed their energy and athleticism in Christopher Hampson's dynamic Perpetuum Mobile, danced to Bach's Volin Concerto in E Major.

Full marks to the company for bringing their own mini-orchestra to supply live musical accompaniment. **Leon Burakowski**



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Amphitheatre plan for gardens

AN OUTDOOR theatre is set to be built in the heart of Dudley as part of a £1.1million overhaul of Coronation Gardens.

Dudley Council has announced it will begin work on the project hailed as the next stage of the town centre's multi-million pound regeneration.

Restoration work will also see water return to the historic Apollo Fountain for the first time in decades, as well as new lighting, paths, trees and seating.

The work is being carried out with money from the European Regional Development Fund and is due to be completed this autumn. The amphitheatre will be available to hire for community groups for open-air shows. The gardens are opposite the Council House in Priory Road, part of the town's Civic Quarter.

3,000 hate crimes are reported across region in just one year

HATE crime is at its highest level in six years across the West Midlands, according to new figures.

There were more than 3,000 crimes with a racist or discriminatory element in the past year – the highest since 2008/09.

Eighty-three per cent were racially motivated. Of the remaining crimes, just under nine per cent were homophobic, just over four per cent were religious, 2.2 per cent related to disability.

There were 55 crimes perceived to be anti-Islamic, 14 crimes were anti-Semitic, and 28 were believed to be due to mobility impairment.

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito said she was 'saddened' by the rise.

She said: "I must say I am saddened that we have seen this rise but, on the other hand, if it means more people are coming forward and reporting it because they have confidence in the police, then that is a good thing."

Chief constable Chris Sims said he believed West Midlands Police had better recording of crimes than other forces.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "I am pleased that the police are iden-

tifying more hate crime and responding to it robustly.

"The public should have confidence that the police take these crimes very seriously.

"The West Midlands is a diverse and vibrant region where people from different backgrounds get on and live together peacefully. Hate crimes undermine that spirit and won't be tolerated."

There were 23 murders during 2014/15, the lowest since 2002 and half that recorded in 2002/03 and 2004/05.

No murder was committed during 2014-15 with a firearm.

Jungle theme for book week

THERE will be a tropical feel across Dudley borough libraries when they celebrate National Bookstart Week.

The jungle-themed series of events includes stories and activities at local libraries includes a special theatre performance at Stourbridge.

Free copies of a special Rumble in the Jungle booklet of the popular Giles Andreae story will be given out to families. There will also be Rattle and Rhyme story time sessions taking place.

The performance at Stourbridge Library by the Booster Cushion Theatre for Children takes place tomorrow (Friday) between 10.45 and 11.30am.

To find out more about the week, visit www.bookstart.org.uk website.

Association with success



Community bowls club officials David Powell, front, Reg Oldacre, left and Gary Parker

FOR 75 years, it has been a place where people have come to meet new friends and take up new hobbies.

And now to mark the anniversary a week of special events have been lined up by the Wordsley and District Community Association.

An array of groups and clubs are inviting the public to come and see what they do all year round.

It is a bumper schedule in Wordsley Community Centre on The Green this week, with bowls, badminton, bridge and dog training all taking place.

Chairman Janet Blakemore said: "The doors will be open and all the groups will welcome anyone who comes in."

"It is a huge achievement. Wordsley still thinks as itself as a village and we care about looking after our own, especially our

elderly. We have over 650 members starting from four years old right through to people in their 90s. In fact, we have just started a group called the Nifty Nineties."

The Community Association was formed in June 1940, originally based at the Wordsley School of Art in High Street, which became Wordsley Community Centre.

In 1970 the group moved to the purpose built Wordsley Green Centre.

The group is very close to the heart of chairman Mrs Blakemore, as it is a role that has also been served by her cousin and uncle.

Mrs Blakemore said: "We have still got a village atmosphere here. We just want to make sure everybody is looked after and will welcome anyone who walks through the door. Hopefully we will be here for another 75 years."

Invitation to the mayor's civic service

THE Mayor of Dudley is inviting people to attend his traditional civic Sunday service.

Councillor Steve Waltho will host the event at St Thomas and St Luke's Church, known as Top Church, Dudley, on Sunday from 11am.

Mayors from across the Black Country boroughs will also be in attendance to share in the occasion.

The Mayor's chaplain, Reverend Andrew Wickens will lead the traditional service and the choir from Jesson's Primary School will sing.

During the service there will be a collection for the Mayor's five charities – The Hope Centre, Halesowen; The What Centre, Stourbridge; More Mascots Please, Brierley Hill; The Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital; and West Midlands branch of Lupus UK based in Coseley.

Memorials to stay put

FAMILIES have won their fight to stop memorial plaques being moved at Rowley Regis Crematorium.

Sandwell Council has done a U-turn after a petition by families upset by plans to phase out rose bed memorial plaques where their loved ones ashes had been scattered.

It had planned to phase out the memorials but now the council has agreed to let people keep their existing memorial plaques in the rose gardens.

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George's medicine is hard to swallow

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

WE don't have to have an elected mayor if we don't want one – although it's a bit like telling a hungry person they don't have to eat food.

George Osborne met with council leaders from across the West Midlands to talk about devolution and the looming prospect of a combined authority.

But there are two elephants in the room. First the name Greater Birmingham, which Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper is adamant is off the table.

Although try telling that to the chambers of commerce for whom it rolls easily off the tongue, far more so than 'Midlands Powerhouse' or 'engine for growth', which are the buzz phrases used by MPs and the Chancellor.

Necessary

The second is a so-called Metro Mayor. Mr Osborne thinks it's necessary to give some accountability to powers and funding devolved from Whitehall to the West Midlands.

He said: "The more powers we devolve the more there has to be some accountability."

The Chancellor spoke of decisions that affect people locally being made locally. A Metro Mayor won't be imposed against people's will.

So on the one hand we don't have to have the mayor that would be a beefed-up, region-wide version of the one Birmingham and Coventry already rejected if we don't want it.

But on the other, if we don't choose to have the elected Metro Mayor,



Against name – Darren Cooper



Councillor Mike Bird

there's a chance the government won't hand the combined authority 'the full model' of powers it's giving to places like Manchester.

George's marvellous medicine for the West Midlands involves giving our councils more power and control to get the economy moving. But unless he's happy with how our council leaders will administer it, it sounds as though he's still going to be holding the spoon.

After less than 10 months in control of Walsall Council, Labour have been shoved back into opposition.

The party remains the largest on the council with 27 seats while the controlling Tories have 25.

Mike Bird's Conservatives were propelled to power by support from

UKIP and independent councillors. Many will question what legitimate mandate they have thanks to this 'Blukip' stitch-up.

But Labour have to accept that the numbers were not on their side.

I've added up the votes cast across the borough in the council elections and the Tories came out on top.

There were 45,461 ballot papers where people chose the Conservatives, compared with 43,115 for Labour.

Those figures only translated into a handful of extra seats for the Tories while their majority in the Parliamentary seat of Aldridge Brownhills was reduced.

The simple truth is more people wanted the Conservatives than Labour on May 7.

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Chantel McGregor
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 Call 01902 401211

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Brewood Acoustic Club – Adrian Nation
 Thu at 8pm, £6
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 Ashes Road, Brewood,
 ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks,
 Longdon, WS15 4PN.
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 Fri at 8pm, £9
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Welsh National Opera – The Magic Flute
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THEATRE

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 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Sing-a-Long-a Frozen
 Sun at 11am, 2.30pm, 3pm,
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
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 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

20 B&H – Delete When Done
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 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

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 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £12.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

BMOS Fiddler on the Roof
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £12.90 - £18.90
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Coalition Kings
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 £7 - £9
 Blue Orange Theatre,
 Birmingham, B18 6AD.
 Call 0121 212 2643

Sexual Perversity in Chicago
 Sat at 7.45pm, Sun at 2.45pm,
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.45pm,
 £6 - £11
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

14/48 Wolverhampton
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, 10.30pm,
 £5 - £10
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Let's Twist Again
 Fri at 7.30pm, £19.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

The Wizard of Oz: The Ruby Slippers
 Fri at 7pm, £5
 Conquest Theatre, Bromyard,
 HR7 4DU.
 Call 01885 488575

Movies to Musicals
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
 £9 - £45
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

The Show Must Go On
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm,
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 587862

Derek Acorah
 Wed at 7.30pm, £21
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

At Ease
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
 £10 - £12
 The Old Joint Stock,
 Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 Call 0121 200 1892

DANCE

Carmina Burana
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
 £16 - £47
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Pasha Kovalev
 Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £24.25
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 587862

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

Theo's Comedy Skool Workshop
 Sat at 7.45pm, £19.75
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Jethro
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 £19.50 - £20.50
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 Call 01543 412121

Comedy 42 – June
 Fri at 7.30pm, £16
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 Call 01543 412121

Comedy in the MET
 Sat at 8pm
 £10.50
 Stafford Gatehouse,
 ST16 2LT.
 Call 01785 619080

OTHER EVENTS

Cosford Air Show 2015
 Sun at 8.30am, £22
 Royal Air Force Museum, Shifnal,
 TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376 200

BBC Good Food Show Summer
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 9am,
 £24.25 - £94
 The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

BBC Gardeners World Live 2015
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 9am,
 £22.50 - £94
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

The Quiz
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Simon Smith Cookery Demonstrations
 Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £12
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Camra Beer Festival
 Fri, Sat, 12noon - 11pm
 Wulfrun Hall,
 Wolverhampton
 WV1 1RQ
 Call 0870 320 7000

Big Fat Quiz Night
 Thu at 5pm, Free
 Subside Bar, Paradise Place,
 Birmingham, B3 3HJ.
 Call 0121 212 0211

TALKS

Barber Lecture Series
 Wed at 1.10pm, Free
 Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
 University of Birmingham,
 B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Royalist Rebel
 Tue at 7pm, £7
 The Commandery, Sidbury,
 Worcester, WR1 2HU.
 Call 01905 361821

OPEN MICS

Sunday Shenanigans – Open Mic night
 Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free
 Mochers, Stourbridge,
 DY8 1PH.
 Call 01384 671141

Open Mic Night
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Classic soul tunes get new Overtones



Soul music really hits you in the heart — The Overtones are in harmony over 1960s favourites on Sweet Soul Music

AFTER three consecutive top five albums, sales of 750,000 and three headline tours, The Overtones reinvent soul music from the 1960s on fourth album Sweet Soul Music and at their Birmingham concert at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.

"They're all classic songs which ruled the airwaves," says Timmy Matley. "It's been a real pleasure to take on these big songs, we've stretched our voices — our vocal abilities, our

harmonies, our whole approach and moved into a different gear."

"Apart from making you dance, soul music really does hit you in the heart," adds Lachie Chapman. "There's also often such a beautiful sentiment behind these songs which is why we're still listening to them 50 years later."

The Overtones' three albums to date — Good Ol' Fashioned Love (2010), Higher (2012) and Saturday

Night At The Movies (2013) — established their reputation as a group to deliver consistently uplifting music infused with exquisite vocal harmonies.

Recent months have seen the boys join forces with Michael Ball on Let It Be Me, the first singletaken from his new album If Everyone Was Listening. Timmy Matley also triumphed as the winner of BBC Children in Need's Great British Sewing Bee.



Sylvia has gods, goddesses, slave girls and pirates

Dazzling Sun King ballet

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet next week unveils a brand new production from David Bintley as he celebrates 20 years as director of the Midlands' own ballet company.

The King Dances gets its premier at the BRB's home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, on Wednesday, June 17, as part of a double bill with Carmina burana, the first ballet that Bintley created for the company.

The King Dances draws inspiration from an episode in 1653 when the teenaged King Louis XIV earned his titled as the Sun King by playing the role of Apollo in a ballet staged for the royal court. The King Dances promises to be a visually striking spectacle. Award-winning designer Katrina Lindsay has spent months creating a world of werewolves and witches.

The production will be the focus of a BBC Four documentary to air in September where David Bintley will retrace the steps of Louis XIV in locations around France as well as going backstage during the creation of the ballet. The programme will feature a full screening of the production too.

Carmina burana is a thrilling epic danced to Carl Orff's dramatic choral music, that will be performed by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia with Birmingham's Ex Cathedra choir. The double bill will be performed until June 20. Then, from June 24 to 27, BRB stage time-travelling romantic comedy Sylvia with a cast of god, goddesses, slave girls and pirates. It features a lush score by Leo Delibes, again choreographed by David Bintley. For tickets see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Innocent theme for opera season

'A Terrible Innocence' is the theme for Welsh National Opera's works this weekend at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Richard Ayres' Peter Pan, based on the classic JM Barrie story of the magical boy who never grows up, is staged tonight (Thursday) with Iestyn Morris as Pan. It is followed tomorrow by Dominic Cooke's warm and witty production of Mozart's The Magic Flute. Kathryn Lewek will make her company debut with WNO as Queen of the Night.

On Saturday WNO stage their new production of Debussy's dreamlike Pelléas and Mélisande.

For tickets contact Birmingham Hippodrome.

Derulo announces city arena show

TICKETS have recently gone on sale for a series of newly announced concerts in Birmingham.

These include Want To Want Me chart-topper Jason Derulo at the city centre's Barclaycard Arena on January 30, 2016.

Take On Me Norwegian 80s pop sensations a-ha, featuring Morten Harket, are back with their first tour in five years to bring their Cast In Steel show to the Barclaycard Arena on March 29.

Before that Will Young returns to the pop circuit with a gig at the Symphony Hall on November 4 as part of his Love Revolution tour.

Doddy Dudley date for a diddy delight

VETERAN funnyman Ken Dodd has announced he's on his way to the Black Country.

The 87-year-old comic from Knotty Ash will bring his Happiness show to Dudley Town Hall on Saturday, June 20 — maybe fans should think about packing a flask and sandwiches as the iconic Scouse comedian's shows have a reputation for lasting a long time. Tickets for the 7pm show are £19 stalls and £22 balcony, online at www.dudley.gov.uk or call the box office on 01384 812812 or 0870 320 7000. Booking fees apply.

The next chance to see Doddy locally will be at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 13.

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CHOICE



Prized Apart (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates, in which 10 couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize. One member of each couple takes part in a series of challenges on location in Morocco, while the other is based at Farnborough airport, ready to answer a series of questions to potentially save their partner, should they find themselves in the bottom three and in danger of being eliminated. In this opening show, the adventurers have to jump from a helicopter and complete a jaw-dropping canyon swing, with the lowest-ranked three contestants flown back to their studio partners in the UK.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** Trooping the Colour. Huw Edwards introduces live coverage of the military ceremony at Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall, central London, to mark Elizabeth II's official birthday. **1.05** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Athletics. **2.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.20** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Continent. (R) **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. Emma Barton, Zoe Lyons, Tony Marshall and Jamie Baulch answer questions on the Garry On films, the life and work of Quentin Crisp, comedian Richard Pryor and Prince. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. Christopher Biggins and Lesley Joseph join Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman for the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R)
6.40 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Prized Apart. New series. Adventure game show, presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates, in which 10 couples battle it out for the chance to win a life-changing prize.
8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.55 Casualty. Louis sticks up for a lost teenage girl, unwittingly leading to his heroin addiction becoming common knowledge, and a patient dies while under Dylan's care.
9.45 The John Bishop Show. An evening of entertainment at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including performances by Florence and the Machine, Pete Dinklage, Tom Stacey and Ellie Taylor.
10.30 BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update.
10.50 Not Going Out. Lee gets invited to a christening party being thrown by neighbours Toby and Anna – sending him and Lucy on a last-minute gift-buying trip. With Hugh Dennis and Abigail Cruttenden. (R)
11.20 Film: Old School. (2003) Three friends relive the wild days of their youth by setting up their own fraternity house next to their old college campus. Comedy, starring Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn.
12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Quick Gun. (1964) **7.30 Film:** The Deadly Companions. (1961)
9.00 Animal Park. (R) **9.30** Earthflight: Flying High. (R) **10.30** The Box. (R) **11.00** The Box. (R) **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **12.30 Film:** Suspicion. (1941) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant.
2.05 Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.40 Film:** Rebecca. (1940) Romantic thriller, with Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Gardeners' World. (R)
6.00 Trooping the Colour: Highlights. Huw Edwards introduces highlights from the morning's military ceremony at Horse Guards Parade in London, where the Colour of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was trooped to mark the Queen's official birthday.
7.30 Edwardian Farm. Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn plough the land to plant potatoes and oats in an effort to secure some income, and are introduced to one of the Edwardian age's prime agricultural innovations – the tractor. Elsewhere, Ruth Goodman prepares for the arrival of the pigs by restoring an ingenious compost-maker, Peter starts to build a trout farm, and Alex learns to forge a billhook to maintain the hedgerows. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon competes against a rival unit for the honour of guarding Winston Churchill on a visit to Walmington-on-Sea. (R)
9.00 The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Kirsty Wark and Morgan Quaintance visit Burlington House in Piccadilly to attend the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, which provides domestic and international artists with a chance to display their works alongside those of the Academy's most famous faces as part of the world's largest open-submission exhibition.
10.00 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)
10.30 Film: Julie & Julia. (2009) Biopic telling the stories of 1960s American chef Julia Child and modern-day blogger Julie Powell, who tries to emulate her heroine in the kitchen. With Meryl Streep.
12.30 The Many Faces of Dick Emery. (R) **1.30 Film:** French Film. (2008) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** 1000 Heartbeats. (R)
3.40 Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. (2004) The teenage wizard is alarmed to learn a dangerous fugitive sorcerer is searching for him. The third in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Gary Oldman.
6.10 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.20 ITV News: Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a dog that steals a smartphone to film his own video, and trouble at church with the Language Barrier Bride. (R)
7.00 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey. (2012) Premiere. Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is pulled out of his comfortable life when Gandalf the wizard volunteers him for a dangerous quest. He joins a party of dwarves who are on a mission to reclaim their lost homeland, which has been taken over by a dragon. The first part of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen and Richard Armitage.
10.15 ITV News: Weather.
10.30 Film: 300. (2006) Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the vast invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, their queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure based on Frank Miller and Lynn Varley's comic-book series, starring Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, Dominic West, David Wenham and Rodrigo Santoro.
12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from York, Sandown Park and Musselburgh. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine with Me. Yvonne Finlayson hosts the final night of the cooking competition in Glasgow, offering her guests a combination of high-octane entertainment and scintillating chat. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Trainer and the Racehorse: The Legend of Frankie. The story behind Frankie's rise to fame, as legendary trainer Sir Henry Cecil battled illness to bring to prominence one of the greatest horses to have graced the racetrack.
8.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke follows a couple's project to transform a derelict flint mill in Stone, Staffordshire, and uncovers a link between the building and the work of Josiah Wedgwood. (R)
9.00 The 90s: Ten Years That Changed The World. Kathy Burke narrates this look back at the 1990s revolution in British music, fashion, film, sport, art and media, as told by the people who made it happen. Featuring a music soundtrack from the time, the programme charts the rise of Britpop, the impact on the art world of Damien Hirst, and how David Beckham helped to make football fashionable again. Contributors include Jarvis Cocker, the Happy Mondays, Irvine Welsh, Keith Allen and Jo Whaley.
10.35 TFI Friday. Chris Evans hosts a one-off edition of the entertainment show that was at the heart of '90s Britpop. Guests include Blur and Shaun Ryder. (R)
12.10 Film: In Bruges. (2008) **2.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **2.55** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.55** Film: Columbus: Requiem for a Falling Star. (1973) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.20** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.20** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **5.15** Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel. (R)
6.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A dispute arising from a failed business venture, and the fury surrounding the construction of an extension that saw damage to an adjacent property. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Steve discover a locked wooden case when they are called to evict tenants from a flat in London's Docklands. Opening it up, they realise they urgently need police back-up – and the property quickly becomes a crime scene. (R)
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 She's 78, He's 39: Age Gap Love. Six people whose partners are much younger than they are reveal why being of different generations is no barrier to romance. Marilyn's relationship with husband William began when she was 45 and he was 16 and was tested from the start by abuse from friends and neighbours, while Edna (78) and Simon (39) bonded over their mutual love of organ music. Mike (74) is coping with an eight-week-old baby alongside wife Lindsey, who is 41 years his junior, while 58-year-old Gary enjoys clubbing in Ibiza with his spouse Kate, who is half his age. (R)
9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.00 Live: World Championship Boxing. Lee Haskins v Ryoosuke Iwasa. Coverage of the bout for the IBF Interim World Bantamweight title from Whitechapel Sports Centre in Bristol.
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Violent Assault: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear India Special **8.30** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. England v Mexico (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.05** Family Guy **1.40** Murder in Successville **2.10** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.40** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **3.40** Jenny Bede: AAA **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **8.00** Monkey Planet **9.00** Film: Echoes from the Dead (2013) **10.35** The Richest Songs in the World **12.05** Duets at the BBC **1.05** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.45** Timeshift: When Wrestling was Golden – Grapples, Gruits and Grannies **2.45** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.45** Close
ITV2
12.45 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **2.35** Mr Bean **3.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.05** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.50** Film: The Vow (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: Couples Retreat (2009) **12.20** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.55** Love Island **1.55** Crazy Beaches **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.05 Wire in the Blood **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.40 Cycling: Tour Series **12.40** British During Car Championship Highlights **2.15** Live Cycling. Stage seven of the Critérium du Dauphiné. **4.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** TT 2015 **10.00** Film: Casino Royale (2006) **12.45** TT 2015 **1.40** Gunsmoke **2.55** Highway Patrol **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Movie in Chelsea **4.00** Film: The Simpsons Movie (2007) **5.50** Ride(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Max Payne (2008) **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.15** 2 Broke Girls **2.40** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Rules of Engagement **4.05** The Cleveland Show **4.30** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Bless This House (1972) **1.00** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **2.45** The Phantom (1996) **4.45** Planet of the Apes (1968) **6.55** The Company Men (2010) **9.00** 21 & Over (2013) **10.45** Hobo with a Shotgun (2011) **12.25** Clerks (1994) **2.15** Revenge of the Nerds (1984) **4.00** Close

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Humans
(Channel 4, 9pm)
Have you seen an advert on Channel 4 from Persona Synthetics, suggesting you can buy a creepily realistic robot called Sally to take care of all your domestic chores? Well, we're sorry to disappoint you, but that was just a teaser for this highly anticipated eight-part sci-fi drama. A couple buy a synthetic human, or "synth" to help around the house, but the new arrival threatens to expose their secrets. A retired engineer's paternal relationship with his own synth is threatened by a malfunction, an android and his owner go on the run, and a detective grows suspicious of his wife's close bond with her synth. William Hurt, Colin Morgan, Katherine Parkinson, Gemma Chan and Will Tudor star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.05** The Truth About Your Teeth. (R) **4.05** Points of View. **4.20** Lifetime. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.35** Animals Unexpected. **6.35** BBC News.
6.50 **Regional Programme.**
7.00 **Countryfile.** The team explores Nottinghamshire, where Matt Baker visits a village farm still being run as it was in the Middle Ages and visits the tree in Sherwood Forest where King John held early parliaments. Ellie Harrison looks for urban birds and gets a lesson in horse anatomy. Adam Henson discovers the most dangerous job in farming. Joe Crowley scales a pylon and Tom Heap investigates rural crime. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.
9.00 **Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.** Strange returns home a hero after helping to win the Battle of Waterloo, and resolves to write a book on ancient magic – to Norrell's horror. Strange hopes for the future are shattered by a tragedy in his life, and following a confrontation with Norrell, he flees the country, determined to learn the truth about the fairy world – even if doing so costs him his sanity.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 **Regional Programme.**
10.30 **Live at the Apollo.** Nina Conti hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Rob Beckett and Jimeoin. Last in the series. (R)
11.15 **Film: High Fidelity.** (2000) A second-hand record shop owner snaps out of his obsession with list-making and music when his latest girlfriend dumps him, and decides to track down some of his old flames to find out why his relationships have always failed. Romantic comedy based on the novel by Nick Hornby, starring John Cusack and Iben Hjejle.
1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.15** Countryfile. (R) **8.10** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.40** Greatest Gardens. **9.10** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.40** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** The Box. (R) **11.45** The Box. (R) **12.15** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.45** Athletics. **1.45** **Film: They Came to Cordura.** (1959) Military adventure, starring Gary Cooper. **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.45** Beat the Brain. **5.15** Hotel India. (R)
6.15 **Film: Shanghai Knights.** (2003) Chinese sheriff Chon Wang and reformed bandit Roy O'Bannon head for Victorian London on the trail of a murderer. Their investigation leads them to a nefarious Englishman plotting to kill the royal family – but fortunately Chon's talented sister comes to their aid. Martial arts comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Aidan Gillen and Fann Wong.
8.00 **Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure.** Comedians Ed Byrne and Dara O'Brian embark on a 4,000-mile pan-American adventure as they retrace a journey originally undertaken during the 1940s by three men from Detroit. They begin in Arizona before heading over the border into Mexico, where they see lucha libre wrestlers, visit a state-of-the-art coffee farm, and explore the remains of the ancient Zapotec civilisation of Monte Alban. (R)
9.00 **The BBC at War.** Part one of two. Jonathan Dimbleby presents a documentary examining the role of the BBC during the Second World War, examining the fledgling corporation's vital role in boosting morale at home and struggles to avoid a complete government takeover. The events of the war years would come to define the BBC as an international broadcaster, transmitting in 47 languages.
10.00 **Protecting Our Foster Kids.** Documentary series following a year in the life of Dorset County Council's fostering service.
11.00 **Film: Secretariat.** (2010) A housewife takes over running her ailing father's stables, and turns one of the racehorses into a champion. Fact-based drama, starring Diane Lane and John Malkovich.
12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.35** **Film: Jurassic Park.** (1993) Action adventure, starring Sam Neill.
4.00 **Regional Programme: Weather.**
4.15 **ITV News: Weather.** **4.30** **Live International Football.** Slovenia v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.15 **Catchphrase.** New series. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
8.00 **All Star Family Fortunes.** Talk show host Matthew Wright and Emmerdale's Charley Webb are joined by their families to take part in the game show and win money for charity. With Vernon Kay. Last in the series.
9.00 **Home Fires.** As the war in Europe draws closer to home and the nation faces its darkest hour, the members of the WI find they have their own battles to fight. Alison looks for a way out of her desperate situation, and Frances tries to help Pat while she still can. Miriam keeps an important piece of news from Bryn, and Richard and Laura realise it may not be possible to keep their affair a secret any longer. Conclusion of the Second World War drama, starring Fenella Woolgar and Francesca Annis. Last in the series.
10.00 **ITV News: Weather.**
10.15 **The Unforgettable Kenneth Williams.** An intimate portrait of the much-loved comic actor, who remained a cantankerous contradiction until his death. With contributions by Stanley Baxter and Sarah Miles. (R)
10.50 **Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights.** Action from the latest round of matches in the qualification process, including Wales v Belgium, Republic of Ireland v Scotland, Northern Ireland v Romania, and Slovenia v England.
12.15 Jackpot247. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** **ITV News: Weather.** **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Caterham Motorsport. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** **Film: Evolution.** (2001) Sci-fi comedy, starring David Duchovny. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. Johnnie Irwin and Laura Hamilton come to the aid of a couple who want the best environment for their two-year-old son, but cannot decide if this is in Spain or Somerset.
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild.** The Grand Designs presenter sets out on a mission to find out if a simpler existence really can make people happier, beginning by travelling to a desert island in the south Pacific archipelago of Tonga to meet a British family who have quit the rat race. (R)
8.00 **The Secret World of Lego.** Documentary presenting a rare glimpse behind the scenes of the construction kit company, revealing the secrets behind its position as the world's most profitable toy firm. The programme follows a design student as he seeks a creative job with Lego, as well as meeting an executive who has risen through the ranks from that same position. Meanwhile, two adult fans come up with money-making schemes based on their love of the kits and a "reputation manager" guides the camera crew through the company's secretive world.
9.00 **Humans.** New series. Sci-fi drama, starring William Hurt. A couple's secrets are threatened when they buy a synthetic human servant, while another android and his owner go on the run.
10.00 **Film: Magic Mike.** (2012) A veteran male stripper teaches a young dancer the tricks of the trade, and introduces him to a hedonistic lifestyle. Comedy drama, starring Channing Tatum and Matthew McConaughey.
12.15 Six Million Dollar Man. (R) **1.45** **Film: A Better Life.** (2011) **3.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.10** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.00** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Boy Box. (R) **7.15** Footbar and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Today's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** Ultimate Police Interceptor. (R) **1.50** **Film: The Man in the Iron Mask.** (1998) **4.15** **Film: Snow Dogs.** (2002)
6.05 **Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** People who have had their benefits cut or withheld since tougher sanctions began in October 2012, including an aspiring rapper left with £3 a day to live on. (R)
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v New Zealand. Action from the third one-day international of the five-match series, held at the Aegies Bowl in Southampton.
7.55 **5 News Weekend.**
8.00 **Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of clips featuring animals in zoos, safari parks and their natural habitat, including cheeky monkeys, a goat with a grudge, a loved-up llama and a frisky dolphin. (R)
9.00 **Big Brother: Time Warp Live Launch.** Live broadcast from the Big Brother House, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.30 **The Abba Years.** The success of the Swedish group, exploring the flamboyant outfits, hit records, successful spin-offs, marriages and break-ups. Featuring interviews with the band members. (R)
11.30 **Abba: Live in Concert.** The Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979, featuring hits including Voulez-Vous, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. (R)
12.40 **Film: Muriel's Wedding.** (1994) **2.40** **SuperCasino.** **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** **Film:** Bend It Like Beckham (2002) **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.10** Family Guy **11.30** Murder in Successville **12.00** Russell Howard's Good News **1.00** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **2.00** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.30** Murder in Successville **3.00** Where Am I Sleeping Tonight? **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Mission to Mars: A Horizon Special **8.00** Sky at Night: Rosetta Update, A Comet's Story **8.30** The Wonder of Animals **9.00** Ken Loach in Conversation with Cillian Murphy **10.00** **Film:** Sweet Sixteen (2002) **11.45** **Film:** What Happened Before the Big Bang? **12.45** I'm in a Girl Group! **1.45** Otis Redding: Soul Ambassador **2.45** Classic Soul at the BBC **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out **12.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.35** **Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **3.40** **Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **5.50** Love Island **6.50** **Film:** She's the Man (2006) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** **Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **12.35** Love Island **1.35** Crazy Beaches **2.00** Life's Funniest Moments **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** The Little House **11.05** **Film:** Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **1.20** Blue Murder **2.35** Judge Judy **3.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
11.30 Superheroes – When Britain Ruled the World **12.30** TT 2015 **2.30** Live Cycling. Stage eight of the Critérium du Dauphine. **4.15** Storage Wars **4.45** **Film:** The Horse Soldiers (1959) **7.15** Live International Football: Belarus v Spain (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** **Cycling 11.00** **Film:** The Boat That Rocked (2009) **1.45** River Monsters **2.40** Nitro Circus **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** **Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **8.50** The Big Bang Theory **9.50** Gogglebox **11.55** The Inbetweeners **1.00** Virtually Famous **1.50** Tattoos After Dark **2.45** New Girl **3.30** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 On the Fiddle (1961) **1.00** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **3.05** Big Business (1988) **5.00** California Man (1992) **6.45** The Time Traveler's Wife (2009) **9.00** Iron Man (2008) **11.25** Hope and Glory (1987) **1.40** Late Chrysantheums (1954) **3.50** Close

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Fans can admire over 300 artefacts direct from the Presley family's treasured archives, some of which have never been seen outside of Graceland, Memphis, where Elvis lived most of his life.

The Elvis exhibition includes automobiles, personal items, iconic stage costumes, guitars, gold and platinum records and photography in addition to dazzling audio and video presentations.

Even the famous pool table Elvis played on with The Beatles will be on display and his wallet containing photos of a young Lisa Marie Presley along with his keys to Graceland.

It's a fascinating and personal insight into the music, movies and style of the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Crimes of the Mind, Channel 5, 3.10pm
Carolyn Raeburn signs her 16-year-old daughter Laura up for a few weeks of horse-riding lessons at a remote ranch, but the teenager ends up being brainwashed by a woman who grooms her to take the place of her own murdered child. Carolyn spends the next five years of her life and more than half a million dollars fighting to get her Laura back. Fact-based thriller, starring Christina Cox and Paula Trickey. (2014)

TUESDAY
Creation, BBC1, 11.25pm
Biopic of Charles Darwin, examining the formation of the 19th-century naturalist's ground-breaking theories of evolution in the wake of his daughter's death. As he prepares to share his ideas, he begins to fear the impact his findings may have on the world – and on his relationship with his devoutly Christian wife. Starring Paul Bettany and Jennifer Connelly. (2009)



WEDNESDAY
The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud, Channel 4, 2.25am
A man who survived the car crash that killed his brother becomes consumed with guilt. Taking a job in a cemetery, he begins seeing visions of his dead sibling and spends every night in the graveyard with him. Drama, starring Zac Efron. (2010)

THURSDAY
Imaginary Friend, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman experiences visions of her childhood imaginary friend, whom she created for emotional support while being abused by her father. Fearing she is losing her mind, she takes drastic measures to rid herself of the hallucinations. Thriller, starring Lacey Chabert and Ethan Embry. (2012)

FRIDAY
The Lady, BBC2, 11.25pm
Biopic of Burmese politician and democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi, who was placed under house arrest by the country's military junta following a disregarded general election in 1990. She spent the next 15 years as a political prisoner, campaigning for free elections. Starring Michelle Yeoh. (2011)

Famous faces take on the culinary challenge

Can you believe it's been nearly a year since actress Sophie Thompson beat fellow finalists Charley Boorman and Jodie Kidd, to be crowned Celebrity MasterChef champion?

Perhaps that's because the MC franchise is rarely off the air.

Nevertheless, John Torode and Gregg Wallace return with the 'Sleb' version tonight, putting their taste buds through a range of lip-smacking and possibly distasteful dishes, as they seek out which stars have the palate and skill to secure a place in the semi-finals.

This summer, a sizzling line-up from the worlds of music, sport and showbiz will be on air to satisfy your telegenic palate by battling it out in the show's 10th anniversary series.

The 20 apron-clad celebrities hoping to follow in the footsteps of Thompson, are actors Scott Maslen, Tish Potter, Craig Gazey, Amanda Donohoe and actor and presenter Sheree Murphy; soul singer and presenter Mica Paris; former Girls Aloud singer Sarah Harding; Pussycat

Doll Kimberly Wyatt; The Wanted singer Tom Parker; singer-songwriter Chesney Hawkes; one half of TV presenter duo Sam and Mark, Sam Nixon; presenters Keith Chegwin, Andy Akinwolere, Most Haunted presenter Yvette Fielding, and TV presenter and singer Rylan Clark; comedian Syd Little; choreographer Arlene Phillips; journalist, writer and broadcaster Samira Ahmed; professional dancer Natalie Lowe; and British Paralympian world-record-holder Danny Crates.

Executive Producer for the BBC, Carla-Maria Lawson, says: "This year's intake of celebrities are among the most skilled to brave the MasterChef challenge. Their culinary journey makes for a thoroughly entertaining and thrilling ride."

The first four weeks concentrate on whittling down the celebrities, and testing their abilities until the best eight go through to the fifth and semi-final week.

This first episode sees Harding, Hawkes, Fielding, Murphy and Potter face the infamous invention test.

Then, two of the celebs are thrown in at the deep end at Asian cuisine specialists, Novikov, while the other three try to deliver the award-winning modern menu of Sixtyone.

Finally, back at MasterChef HQ, the contestants prepare a two-course menu of their own choosing before John and Gregg make their decisions.

Two celebrities from each heat week make it through to the semi-finals, where they must endure even more nerve-racking culinary trials, before the sixth and final week sees the remaining, and now hopefully impressive cooks, draw on all the skills they have learnt, when they face not only Torode's tricky Palate Test, but also the notorious restaurant critics in the terrifying Critic's Test.

After this, they return to MC HQ and cook their best three-course meal for John and Gregg, before the judges decide who is the true cooking star worthy of following in the footsteps of previous winners Thompson, Ade Edmondson, Emma Kennedy, Phil Vickery, Lisa Faulkner, Jayne Middlemiss, Liz McClarnon, Nadia Sawalha and Matt Dawson.



John Torode and Gregg Wallace in Celebrity MasterChef, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Met BBC1, 9pm
Detective John Sandlin investigates when a 34-year-old father is mistaken for another man and stabbed to death outside a pub in central London, while DS Tracey Miller is on the hunt for a sex offender who has been targeting Muslim women in the Brixton area. Notting Hill Carnival is the biggest event in the Metropolitan Police's calendar, with 13,000 officers on duty over the August bank holiday weekend, and the pressure is on for them to balance the carnival spirit with keeping the public safe.

Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild Channel 4, 9pm
The Grand Designs presenter travels to the foothills of the Andes in Chile to meet a family of five from south London who quit the daily grind to build a new home in the shadow of an active volcano. Kevin arrives at the site on horseback to discover that Jago and Lucy are still in the process of constructing their new home using bags filled with soil and timber from the local forest, which they transport by oxen. He is impressed by the structure, but troubled by one key question. Why choose to live next door to a highly volatile volcano?

TUESDAY
Attenborough's Big Birds: Natural World BBC2, 8pm
Meet the big birds, a feathered family who've never flown a day in their lives. From ostriches to kiwis, these bizarre avian adventurers appear to be one of nature's greatest novelty acts. How they came to be and how they continue to survive is a fascinating tale that has long captivated David Attenborough. In this programme, he explores their secrets, telling a story of dedicated dads, enormous eggs and a serious need for speed.

Dara O Briain meets Stephen Hawking BBC1, 10.35pm
Since he was a teenager, motor-mouthed comedian Dara O Briain has been fascinated by theoretical physics and the work of Professor Stephen Hawking, one of the world's most celebrated scientists. In this film, Dara spends time with his boyhood hero at his home and place of work in Cambridge, interviewing Hawking's family and friends to gain an insight into the daily life of a man whose theories have had a huge impact on the general populace.

WEDNESDAY
DIY SOS: The Big Build BBC1, 8pm
Wednesday is fast becoming the most emotional night of the week – anyone in need of a good sob can watch DIY SOS and then turn over to ITV for Long Lost Family. This Big Build looks set to be particularly moving, as it introduces us to Hull couple Liz and Jason Liversidge, who married in 2009 and quickly started a family. However, just as Jason embarked on doing up a house, he was diagnosed with the rare genetic condition Fabrys disease. The couple were shocked to discover that their two daughters would also have the same condition, and they received another blow, as Jason was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Can Nick Knowles and the team ensure the Liversidges have a home that meets their needs,?



Dara O Briain meets Stephen Hawking, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
The Tribe Channel 4, 9pm
Documentary about a rural African tribe living together in four mud huts in southern Ethiopia. It's a stressful time for family elders Ayke Muko and Kerri Bodo, whose son is due to get married to a girl from a neighbouring village. However, after failed dowry negotiations, relations between the two families have broken down. Meanwhile, their only daughter remaining at home is Hacho, who is next in line to marry. As she clings on to her last few months of freedom, she skips family dinners, dishes out endless backchat and steals her mother's money – just like any other rebellious teenager.

FRIDAY
Sarah Millican Home Bird Live Channel 4, 10pm
The British Comedy Award's Queen of Comedy returns with a brand new live show filmed during her sell-out nationwide tour, Home Bird. Performing to her home crowd at the Newcastle Tyne Theatre, the South Shields lass describes how she is becoming more domesticated, giving up the party scene (well, Ann Summers), easing off on the drinking (fizzy pop equals wealthy dentists) and is settling down (taking her bra off).

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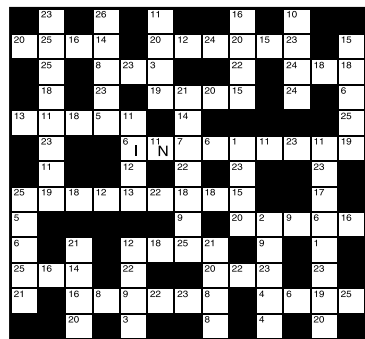
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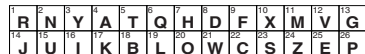
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

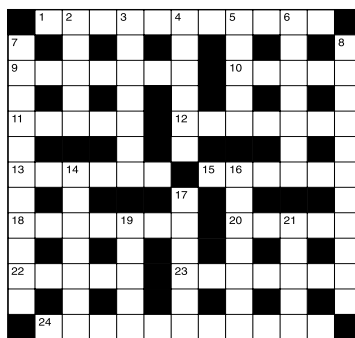
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Setting a lofty tone in a mountain camp? (4-7)
2. I am so old on reflection (5)
3. Or share out with a less clear voice? (7)
4. Without loss in diplomacy (6)
5. Very hard worker after a mad frolic (7)
6. He enables 100 to survive (5)
7. Assemble again in an improved manner? (6)
8. Like a top football team's boots? (4-7)
9. I had one to return to the foot (5)
10. Stress what the foreigner may have (6)
11. Tonic, if taken thus, isn't true? (7)
12. Gave square markings to the chancellor's ex-followers? (7)
13. Reckoner needed in shop? (7)
14. Anger in worship? (7)
15. Pressed to take back some brigade grumbles (5)
16. Compensate about successful stroke (6)
17. Abuse to soothe temper? (7)
18. Relation of eggheads in French resort (5)
19. Angrily dined to excess (11)
20. Political corruption in the nursery? (5)

Down

2. I am so old on reflection (5)
3. Or share out with a less clear voice? (7)
4. Without loss in diplomacy (6)
5. He enables 100 to survive (5)
6. Gourmet finds the remedy - under-cooked pie! (7)
7. Teacher takes a bit to produce his best work (11)
8. Like a top football team's boots? (4-7)
14. Tonic, if taken thus, isn't true! (7)
16. Reckoner needed in shop? (7)
17. Compensate about successful stroke (6)
19. Relation of egghead in French resort (5)
21. Political corruption in the nursery? (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Suitable (11)
9. Struggle (7)
10. Mindful (5)
11. Extravagant (5)
12. Detectives (7)
13. Tax (6)
15. Starry (6)
18. Base (7)
20. Impudence (5)
22. Joint (5)
23. Paltry (7)
24. Sharp (11)

Down

2. Equipment (5)
3. Crush (7)
4. Gratify (6)
5. Silly (5)
6. Turncoat (7)
7. Shameful (11)
8. Stupidly (11)
14. Thoughtful (7)
16. Live (7)
17. Improve (6)
19. Spree (5)
21. Arrange in line (5)

	4			5		2		8
	1	6			4			
9				7			3	6
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	6		2		5			
4		3				6	9	
6				8				4
			1			3		
2		1			3	6	5	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

1	8	4	6	2	5	9	7
2	7	9	1	4	3	5	6
3	5	6	9	7	8	1	2
6	2	8	3	5	9	7	4
7	1	5	8	6	4	3	9
9	4	3	7	1	2	8	5
4	9	1	5	3	6	2	8
8	6	7	2	9	1	4	3
5	3	2	4	8	7	6	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Grandest; 5 Verb; 8 Smug;
10 Japanese; 11 Frill; 12 Barrack; 13 Secretary;
Ship; 18 Innuendo; 19 Able; 20 Prattle; 21 Indus;
22 Roan; 23 Impudent. Down: 2 Remorse; 3
Niggler; 4 Starboard beam; 6 Eyewash; 7 Break
up; 8 Fairly; 13 Skipper; 14 Cantata; 15 Events;
16 Stained; 17 Ill-tum. QUICK - Across: 1 Ap-
pendix; 5 Odds; 9 Free; 10 Assassins; 11 Rural;
12 Gesture; 13 Objectable; 18 Teutonic; 19
Sick; 20 Amnesia; 21 Cover; 22 Tell; 23 Strident.
Down: 2 Perturb; 3 Elevate; 4 Insignificant; 6
Disturb; 7 Sincere; 8 Damson; 13 Outcast; 14
Journal; 15 Choose; 16 Abscond; 17 Lectern.

Thinking space

Quiz

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Which comedian's real name is Joseph Levitch? | 6. In which year was the Mary Celeste found unmanned near the Azores? |
| 2. Who was shot by Nathuran Godse on September 17th, 1948? | 7. Who won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize? |
| 3. Which poet wrote The Lake Isle of Innisfree? | 8. In which musical is the song '76 Trombones' featured? |
| 4. What, according to the Beaufort Scale, is a wind of 64-72 m.p.h.? | 9. Which instrument did Glenn Miller play? |
| 5. What is dendrophobia the fear of? | 10. What is the capital of Chile? |

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen; 2 The Crimean; 3 1909; 4 Swede; 5 Portugal; 6 The Unfinished Symphony; 7 Wilson; 8 Laika; 9 A belltower; 10 Spree.

Niner: DEPLORING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5439 gives a hybrid mammal,
3728 gives a wild animal,
126 gives a kind of horse.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Display signals art school relaunch

27

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 11, 2015



Paul McAllister, course leader of Applied Arts, looks at work



Ryan Squire from Willenhall shows Chloe Goodchild his work

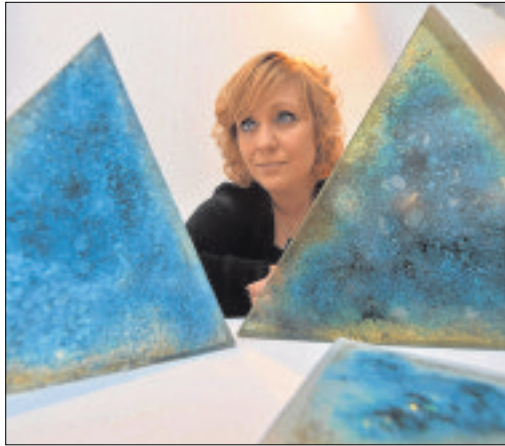
FROM shimmering pyramids of azure blue to striking sculptures leaping out from the wall, students' artworks have gone on display at the relaunched Wolverhampton School of Art.

The school was originally formed back in 1851 but bosses at the University of Wolverhampton wanted to relaunch it

From pyramids to sculptures, students' work goes on show, as NIGEL SLATER explains

to reaffirm their dedication to the subject.

Also part of the celebrations is the two-month ArtsFest, which celebrates the city's artistic history, and new creative courses will start at the university in September, including Graphic Design, Illustration and Creative Theatre Technology.



Suzie Lavender, from Tettenhall, with her shimmering pyramids

Dr John Pymm, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, said relaunching the school was important for Wolverhampton.

"When the school was first launched it made a major impact in the city and I think in recent years we have lost the importance of what the original school had," he said.

"So we want this relaunch to help to go back to our roots and say how important it was for us. That is what we are trying to do with this relaunch."

Excitement

"There's been a real sense of excitement and expectancy as we've planned not just the launch but the whole concept behind the school."

"This is an auspicious moment for us to reclaim our heritage."

"We're living in a period where there's been an enormous revival of interest in the past, especially our own past."

The launch event also saw the unveiling of a portrait of Sir Charles Wheeler, a famous artist from Codrington who became the first sculptor to hold the Presidency of the Royal Academy.

He opened the current School of Art building, on the university campus, back in 1970.

He died aged 82 in 1974 and his portrait will be on display at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.



Amie Sara Baba from All Saints with her work



John Mortimer looking at art by Tom Parry



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Three-storey family house is beautifully presented



THIS four-bedroomed three-storey detached family home in Attingham Drive, Dudley, is within walking distance of local shops, public transport, excellent schools and close to the M5/M6 corridor.

Having a driveway and garage, it is for sale through Trinity Property at £230,000.

It has an entrance hall, WC, a study, an open-plan kitchen/family room with white units and wood-effect worktops, study, en suite shower rooms to two bedrooms and a garden to the rear of the property.

Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size and quality of the home on offer.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit the website www.trinityproperty.net



Rural home available first time in 40 years

TO be sold for the first time in 40 years, Chadwick Bank at Stourport-On-Severn is a character country cottage with about 1.3 acres with views, potential for extension and keeping horses.

It is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys at £325,000.

With a gated driveway and double garage, the property off Crown Lane is near to Ombersley Golf Club, Worcester and the M5.

It has a reception hall, utility, dining kitchen, living room with log burner, French doors to garden and staircase to split-level landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC. There is a double garage and paddock.

Contact Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys on 01299 822060 or visit the website at www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk



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GREENSFORGE LANE STOURTON

An elegant and impressive house set in a mature wooded setting offering both seclusion and privacy and being close to Stourbridge, having excellent road links and schools. The accommodation comprises of: Reception Hall, drawing room, library, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, games room, conservatory, cloakroom, cellars, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms and two bathrooms. The property further boasts integral garaging, driveway affording parking, beautiful terraced garden with mature woodland, all weather tennis court and outbuildings. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

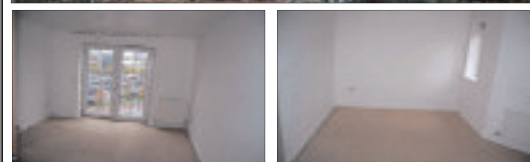
£5000PCM DEPOSIT £10000 • FEES



HIGH STREET WOLLASTON

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge/Diner, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, fore garden with driveway affording off road parking and rear garden with patio area, pond and shed. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

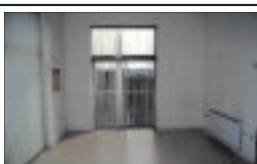
£650PCM DEPOSIT £750 • FEES



MADISON AVENUE MERRY HILL

A very well presented two bedroom apartment situated on the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. The accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, lounge/dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms master with en-suite and bathroom. The property further benefits from central heating, double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£560.00 PCM DEPOSIT £660 • FEES



TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 • FEES



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from electric heating, lawned fore garden and communal parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = TO FOLLOW DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS:NO

£450PCM DEPOSIT £550 • FEES

QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE



An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Grand reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, rear entrance hall, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/seating area with door out to a balcony. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, single garage with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£2999PCM DEPOSIT £3099 • FEES



COPPICE LANE QUARRY BANK

An extremely well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, Downstairs WC, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, fore garden and rear garden having gated access with gravelled parking area and lawn. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: D DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

£595.00 PCM DEPOSIT £695 • FEES



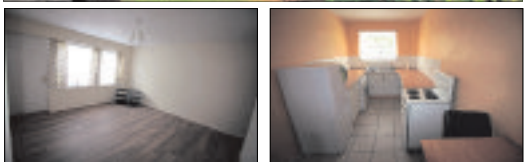
SPRING STREET LYE

A Two bedroom End Terrace Property refurbished to a high standard and situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. The accommodation comprises of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby, ground floor bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, private driveway affording off road parking & leading to a large garage/store and rear garden with patio, lawned gardens and vegetable plot. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 • FEES



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



WILTSHIRE DRIVE HALESOWEN

An extremely well presented one bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Porch, lounge, kitchen, inner hall with useful storage cupboard, bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from double glazing and electric heating. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:NO

£425.00PCM DEPOSIT £525 • FEES



OLD MILL FARM HOUSE BROMSGROVE ROAD

An Impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Storeys, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accommodation comprises: Ground Floor - Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs WC and Lobby. First Floor - Bedrooms One and Two, both with En-Suites Shower Rooms Bedroom has En-Suite Bathroom. Second Floor - Bedrooms Four and Five and House Bathroom. In addition to a large Cellar there is a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a gravelled driveway leading to the rear of the property where there is ample off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£2000PCM DEPOSIT £2100 • FEES



VICARAGE ROAD LYE

A Three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, inner hall, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, first floor landing and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear paved garden with part brick built store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575.00PCM DEPOSIT £675 • FEES



HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A delightful two bedroom period property situated in a prominent location with accommodation comprising of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear garden and gravelled driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

£500PCM DEPOSIT £600 • FEES



CROSSWALKS ROAD LYE

A spacious three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms & bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, central heating, garage and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495.00PCM DEPOSIT £595 • FEES



REDDALL HILL ROAD CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented two bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£475.00 PCM DEPOSIT £575 • FEES



WHITE OAK DRIVE FINCHFIELD

A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, open plan garden to the fore and enclosed lawned rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 • FEES

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Tivoli is strong on style

By Sharon Walters

The contemporary SsangYong Tivoli B-segment SUV arrives in the UK this summer with prices starting from just £12,950.

"This is a car that will really put SsangYong on the map and change brand perceptions," says Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK.

"By any criteria but especially style, interior finish and value for money, Tivoli stands close scrutiny.

"The verdict from those who have already seen and driven the car is that we're on to a winner.



"But ultimately it's the customer who wins: this is a modern, safe, well-built and comprehensively equipped car, and with a price and warranty no one else can match. Anyone considering a small SUV will have to put it on their list."

The Tivoli is extremely well equipped – see specification mentioned, and for simplicity the range comprises three main model options – SE, EX and ELX, while for those who want further individualisation, the My Tivoli programme offers a wide number of further choices.

Bluetooth

The Tivoli SE starts from just £12,950, and is available with a choice of a 1.6-litre Euro six petrol or diesel engine (from August) with manual transmission.

The vehicle is finished in a smart grey cloth trim and includes 16in alloy wheels, cruise control, a stop/go system (petrol), Smart steering (normal, comfort and sport modes), an RDS/Bluetooth radio and seven airbags.

The EX adds the option of automatic transmission on the petrol powered car, (diesel automatic and diesel 4x4 manual are available through the My Tivoli personalisation programme), grey or beige leather upholstery, 18in alloy Spiral wheels, dual-zone climate control, seven-inch touch-screen smart audio system with rear view camera, heated front seats, front fog lights and a luggage load cover.

The top-of-the-range ELX is available with the full choice of petrol, diesel, manual and automatic transmission, front wheel drive or 4x4.

It features diamond-cut alloy wheels, a smart instrument cluster, smart keyless



'By any criteria but especially style, interior finish and value for money, Tivoli stands close scrutiny'

starting, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, rear spoiler, automatic headlamps, rain sensing wipers, full TomTom navigation system with seven-inch touch screen, rear view camera, and the option of the Styling pack and Red Leather pack via the My Tivoli personalisation programme.

There is a choice of six colours – Flaming red, Grand white and metallic Dandy blue, Space black, Silent silver and Techno grey and two additional colours – Jazz

brown and Icecap blue through My Tivoli. You can also create your own style with My Tivoli.

The My Tivoli personalisation programme allows customers to create their own distinctive car.

This includes the Styling pack which gives a choice of five two-tone colour roof combinations, the Red Leather pack, two further colours – metallic Jazz brown and Icecap blue, as well as further engine and drivetrain options.

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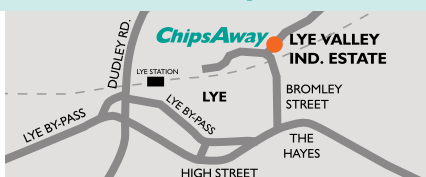
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✓ Dented panels

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<p>07/57 Mini Cooper 1.6 With JCW Body Styling 72k, Red/Black, Alloys, Red Leather Trim, Air Con, E/Windows, Fog Lights £5995 / £30 Per Week</p>	<p>09/09 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v Desire 57k, Grey Metallic, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Ford Focus TDCi Zetec Diesel Estate 67k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Heated Front Screen £5495 / £28 Per Week</p>	<p>08/08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr *ONE OWNER* 55k, Red, Air Conditioning, CD Player, Electric Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi CC-2 Diesel Convertible 38k, Blue, Alloys, E/Roof, E/Windows, Heated Front Screen £5495 / £28 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, 53k, Violet, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Heated Screen, CD £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Plus Diesel Automatic 7 Seater, 64k, Beige, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, CD, Climate Pack £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Twin top Sport Convertible 47k, Red, Alloys, CD, E/Roof, E/Windows, Two Tone Interior £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>	<p>06/06 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3dr, 59k, Black, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, Heated Screen, CD £3495 / £29 Per Week</p>
<p>08/58 Fiat Bravo 1.9 Multijet Diesel Dynamic 61k, Blue, Alloys, Air con, CD £4495 / £22 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Fiat Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr, 39 k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, CD £3295 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/57 Renault Kangoo 1.6 16v 95 Expression Automatic 37k, Red, CD, E/Windows, Sliding Side Doors £4295 / £27 Per Week</p>	<p>00/V Skoda Felicia 1.9 Diesel Pick up, V Reg 63k, Blue, Tonneau cover, Rare and totally original with service history £1995</p>

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Pretender flexing its muscles

By John Griffiths

'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown,' according to Shakespeare's Henry IV and an odd way to start a car test, you might think,

But the sentiment could perhaps apply to the legendary Golf GTi, for so long synonymous with performance hatchbacks, now there's a young pretender flexing its considerable muscles.

It's the new, fourth generation Polo GTi: a smaller, lighter car now with its biggest, most powerful engine under the bonnet and quite capable of showing its big brother a clean pair of heels in the sprint.

At £18,850 the new car is competitively priced to thwart the ambitions of other manufacturers keen to get their hands on the hot hatchback crown by undercutting the Golf, with the likes of the Peugeot 208 GTi and the Ford Fiesta ST.

With its long experience of developing GTis and new engine technology, it's hardly surprising that VW should produce a very good, scaled down version based on the latest Polo, which first appeared a little over six months ago.

The flagship Polo has a brand new engine increased in size from 1.4 to 1.8 litres which is based on the 2.0 litre turbocharged unit powering its Golf GTi stable mate. Power is up from 180 to 192PS but at least as important is the improvement in its torque delivery which has such an impact on the car's character and the driving experience.

For versions fitted with the seven-speed DSG dual clutch transmission, you get a whopping 250Nm of torque at just 1,250rpm, barely above tickover. That's one of the reasons while its 0 to 62mph sprint time of just 6.7 seconds not only beats a selection of rivals but also the Golf GTi itself.

But its about more than just being quick off the mark. The outright power plus all that low down torque means the this latest Polo GTi feels much more grown up, unruffled and effortless to drive, just like its bigger brother.

Don't be deceived, though, by this mature veneer. There's still an awful lot of fun to be had and, when it comes to overtaking, a bit more pressure with the right foot will have you pressed back in the sports seat, around dawdling traffic and safely back on your side of the road as quickly as anything short of a very expensive supercar.

Seamless

The DSG transmission obviously adds to the price compared to the six-speed manual but to me it's worth it. It is so quick and seamless it complements both sides of the car's character: relaxed cruising or sportier driving. And you can use the up/down paddles behind the steering wheel if you want maximum control.

Despite its potential, the Polo GTi isn't a thirsty beast and in normal driving it shouldn't be too hard to return something like the official 47.1mpg average. If you're pushing a bit harder, though, the mid to high 30s are more likely.

Compared to other Polos, the GTi gets a sharpened up steering system and revised suspension which, while sportingly firm, gives better ride comfort than some of its rivals and reduces body roll in the corners.

It's a really rewarding car to drive, with a lot going on under the skin, such as the XDS+ system on the front axle. Borrowed from the Golf GTi, this complements the standard stability and traction control systems by compensating for the understeer (tendency to run wide) which is a feature of front-wheel drive cars approaching their cornering limits.

Along with this Polo's stiffer chassis and uprated suspension, it helps to give the car a very pleasantly neutral and precise feel through the twisty bits.

While the new Polo is a 'compact' GTi, it's roomier than you might think with plenty of space for four if not five in comfort. Remember that, like the rest of the new Polo family, it's actually significantly bigger than the first generation Golf.

It's equipped to the standards of a range flagship, too, with plenty of comfort and sporting touches.

On the outside there's the trademark honeycomb grille and air intake red brake calipers, glass black door mirror housings and big, beefy alloy wheels.

Inside there's air conditioning, sports front seats, electric windows and door mirrors, a colour touch screen control for the multifunction information, communications and audio systems, a steering wheel with remote controls, plus chrome, black gloss and stitched leather trim. The Polo has features such as automatic stop/start, battery regeneration and a cylinder cut-off system which all contribute to the relatively frugal fuel consumption of such a powerful engine.

In terms of running costs, its CO2 rating is 139g/km (VED band E, currently £130 per annum), with a 20 per cent BIK tax liability for company car drivers. The insurance group is 29E. It comes with a three year/60,000 mile warranty. While the DSG transmission costs more, it is slightly more economical with an official 50.4mpg; enough to lower its CO2 rating to 129g/km and therefore reduce your tax bill, too.

It also has the full range of safety systems, from ABS and emergency brake control to an electronic diff lock and multiple airbags. There's also an automatic distance control.

The car has an impeccable pedigree and will certainly give competitors a run for their money. It's a car with something of a split personality: refined and mature for most of the time but instantly ready to put a big smile on your face, well worthy of a car in the top ranks of hot hatchbacks.

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1 Family

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at West Midlands Traffic Area Office, Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

DAVID LESLIE WILKES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 6 Heath Farm Road Stourbridge DY8 3AZ, who died on 27/01/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 21/08/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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10 Personals

personal

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Looking for an Educated male to a Degree Level who is attractive, genuine and caring, enjoys quiet nights in, outdoor life and holidays abroad.

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sports clubs

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Players wanted to strengthen good Friendly family run teams 2015/16 season.

Under 8's contact Pardeep 07967 363814. Under 11's contact Ruth 07583 787266. Under 14's contact Steve 07837 489839. Under 15's contact Lee 07768 869703. Academy 5's and under contact Ron 07717 677627.

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Under 12's 2015/16. Invite quality players to join division 1 team. FA Charter standard friendly club, level 2 qualified coach. New kit supplied. Home games on a private pitch. Contact Neil Clapp 07903 467233. Email: neilclapp@sky.com

general

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LOOKING FOR MY SON

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0121 572 8688 / 07949 390236.

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02, blue, FSH, long MoT, immaculate condition. £1,250 ono. 07935 337167.

PEUGEOT 206CC

1.6 cabriolet, 04 reg, 69k, silver, MoT, excellent condition. £1,500 ono. 07913 981460.

PEUGEOT 206CC S

2002, 73,000 Miles, blue, air con, MoT, auto, central locking, Alloys, CD, Cat C repaired. Quick sale. £850 ono. 07768261696

PEUGEOT 307 HDI

1400, 2003, 5dr hatch, silver, 77k, 12 months MoT, very good condition throughout.
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07899 497967.

RENAULT CLIO P

reg, full MoT, 49k, 1.2, 3-dr, red, CD, very economical. £385. 07804 168151.

RENAULT LAGUNA

1.8, 2003, 64k, very good condition, 9 months MoT, 1st see will buy, £800 ono. 0784 621507 or 07535 606469.

RENAULT MEGANE

94,000 miles, alarm, long MoT, Diesel, sunroof, Alloys, CD. Ring for more details. £1,000 o.n.o. 07825 873434.

SKODA FELICIA

Diesel, T Reg, 55r, 10 months MoT, bargain at £540, sale due to illness. 01384 211572.

TOYOTA RAV4

2.0 1995, red, 7 months MoT, new cat and front discs and pads, good tyres £495. 01902 682269.

TOYOTA YARIS

1.0 Black, 51 reg, 3dr hatchback, fine months MoT, 80k, good condition, immaculate inside. £800. 07954 407612

VAUXHALL AGILA X

reg, 136k, good condition and reliable, MoT December. £450 ono. 01902 791413.

VAUXHALL AGILA X

reg, 138k, used daily, good months MoT December. £350 ono. 01902 791413.

VAUXHALL CORSA

1.2, new shape, 07 reg, 110k, good runner, needs slight cosmetic hence £1,375. 07707 276545.

VAUXHALL CORSA

1999, 66k, MoT Dec 2015, 4 months MoT, good condition. Reliable. Lady owner. £475. 01384 256482.

VAUXHALL VECTRA

1.8 16vLS, X reg, 85,000 miles, green, MoT April 2016, good runner, good condition. £350 ono. 07891 515511 after 3pm.

VAUXHALL VECTRA

2.0cc, diesel, 2002, silver, 4 months MoT, alloys, good condition. £450. 07842 792847.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA

1.8 CLUB 2003, petrol / gas, black, electric windows, air con, long MoT, central locking, radio/CD. £1,460 ono. 01384 401209.

PEUGEOT 107

55, red, 11tr, 10months MoT, C/L, CD player. Excellent condition. Cheap to run £1,950 ono. 07831 232257.

RENAULT CLIO

Black, Excellent condition 6 month MoT cheap tax & insurance 76k miles. £1,900 ono. 07582648879

RENAULT CLIO

Expression, 07, 3-dr, MoT only 2k, service history, excellent condition. £2,800 ono. 07954 177136. 01902 681036.

TOYOTA YARIS

5DR 2009, 42,589 Miles, Black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, central locking, pas, tax, Stereo, CD. £3,900 ono. 07989423617

VAUXHALL ASTRA

1.7 CDTI SRi, 5dr hatch, Reg NA11 PGO, 18k, excellent condition, black, 17 inch alloys, air con, front and rear park sensors, CD radio, MoT 2016, 60mpg £30 road tax, £7,995 ovno. 07437 329038.

VAUXHALL TIGRA

EXCLUSIVE 1.4 convertible, 2006, black leather heated seats, MoT March 16 FSH. £2,825 ono. 01902 909043 or 07903 992681.

VW CADDY

C20 1.9 tdi, 2010, new mot, fsh, 74,000 Miles, white, 1 owner from new, must be seen, no vat £5,000 ono. 07748410900

motorbikes

HONDA 650cc NTV

Excellent condition, 17,595 miles only. £1,500 ono. 01902 341487.

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8 Motoring

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CITROEN BERLINGO

diesel, 02, One owner, MoT, FSH, 80k, £750. 07494 090 052.

CROWN MOTORS

Closing down clearance trade sale. Lots of bargains. 07585 664389. WV14 8AA.

FORD KA

04, red, 66k, long MoT, alloy wheels, stereo. Great condition. cheap to run. £825 ono. 07535 074158.

FORD FIESTA LX

1997, 57,700 miles, blue, MoT, used daily. 124cc, £299 ono. 01902 676490.

FORD KA 1.3

2000 Reg., only 67,000 miles, mint condition for year, fsh, 12 months MoT, £675 o.n.o. 07854 447625.

FORD KA 1.3

2002, 55k Miles, black, pas, Stereo, CD. Ideal for fixing up or spares. Genuine reason for sale. £150.00 07895 821551

FORD KA

2008, FSH, Full MoT, 63k, new stereo. Very good condition. £1,295 o.n.o. Telephone 07598 120638.

HONDA CRV

1999, 151,000 miles, blue, 9 months MoT, £750 ono. 07825 334505.

HYUNDAI GETZ

1.1, 04, full MoT, 40r, very good condition. one lady owner. £1,250 o.n.o. 07754 557861.

KIA CARENS

2006, MoT April 16, two keys, two owners. Very reliable. £985 ono. 01902 686411.

MAZDA 323

5 door hatch, red, 1.6, 1599, family owned from new. MoT, low miles. £450. 01902 725250.

MAZDA 6

for sale, spares or repairs, £500. Please call 07871 932428.

cars over £1500

CHEVROLET MATIZ

SE 1.0, 2010 reg, silver, 10,000 miles, one owner from new, excellent condition. £3,200. 07913 906764.

CITROEN DISPATCH

07 reg, 1900 Diesel, 6 mths MoT, New tyres/clutch. Fully alarmed, locking, radio. £1,750 ono. 07923 191378.

FIAT 500L

1.2 2009, 55,600 miles, full MoT, met black, fixed sunroof, ac, bluetooth & USB, alloys, immaculate. £4,750. 07900 430461.

FORD FOCUS

1.6 Titanium, 2010, 50,000 miles, blue, FSH, excellent condition. £5,375 ono. Kingswinford 07785 912186.

FORD FOCUS CONVERTIBLE

Hard top, many extras. Very good condition. £3,350 ono. 07790 480811.

HYUNDAI 110SE

Auto 10 months old, 1 owner, 125 miles, blue, reluctant sale, genuine claims only. £7995. Drolivich 01562 747214.

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY

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LAND ROVER RANGEROVER

4.6 LPG, 2001, TV, full MoT, mint condition, black, 126k, sat nav, £3,850 o.n.o. 07941 341444 after 6pm.

classic cars

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01630 652993.

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1978, Red, MoT October 2015, som, dry use only. Condition 3. £3,000 ono. 01384 258040.

SUZUKI BERLINO

1.6 GLX 1998, 4dr Saloon, Full MoT. Green, 25,000 miles from new. Must be seen. £950. 01922 646437/07932084639

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6 Property

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BRIERLEY HILL

2-bed house, newly decorated, suit working or retired, £550pcm. 07585 429131.

LUXURY STUDIO

apartment, Bradmore, own parking, suit pensioner / single person. 07590 911398.

WILLENHALL

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overseas property

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mobile homes

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cars under £1500

cars over £1500

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Wolves are training to improve possession

POSSESSION is king – that’s the message Wolves youngsters are being taught as they develop a club playing style from top to bottom.

Boss Kenny Jackett is influencing the club’s approach as they look to bring youth players through playing in an attractive passing style.

Under-18 coach Rob Edwards revealed youngsters at that level are being encouraged to hit the 400-passes per game mark.

And they’re aiming to have 40 per cent of possession in the opposition half.

The team came on leaps and bounds throughout last season, suffering an indifferent start before winning six in a row.

That run included victories over Manchester United and Manchester City.

Edwards, who has finished his first year in the job having retired from playing, said his job was very much about developing players for the next level.

“Possession is a big thing in football at the moment,” said Edwards, a former defender for Wolves and Villa.

“People might say it’s alright having 70 per cent of the possession but then you lost 1-0.

“I remember talking to the gaffer about it earlier in the season and he said if you have 70 per cent of possession you’re going to win more games than you lose.

“And that’s been our theme. We’ve aimed to get to around the 400 passes mark in games, and tried to have 40 per cent of possession in the opposition half.”

“That’s the key – it’s not possession for the sake of it.”

WOLVES defender Kortney Hause was both the hero and the villain as England’s Under-20s failed to claim third place at Toulon Tournament.

The young Lions, managed by former Watford boss Aidy Boothroyd, also named fellow Wolves defender Dominic Iorfa in their starting line-up for the play-off clash with the USA.

But despite a spirited display, England eventually went down 2-1 after conceding two penalties, one either side of half-time.

The US, who named a side made up of players aged 23 or under, took the lead inside the first 10 minutes with Hause at fault as he gave away a penalty.

The 19-year-old tripped Jerome Kiesewetter in the box with Alonso Hernandez tucking home.

Hause is the hero and the villain of match

Gabby is bigging up Grealish

GABBY AGBONLAHOR has told fans at Villa there is a lot more to come from Jack Grealish after admitting he is ‘astonished’ by the youngster’s ability.

The home grown star made his first-team breakthrough under boss Tim Sherwood last season and was handed a starting spot in last Saturday’s FA Cup final.

Grealish struggled to impose himself at Wembley as Arsenal ran out comfortable 4-0 winners, but Agbonlahor insists the 19-year-old is destined to be a top player.

“Seeing him break into the side as a young lad brings back good memories for me – although he’s a lot better,” said Agbonlahor who also came through the Villa youth ranks.

“Anyone who is watching him now, they haven’t seen anything yet.

“He skips past players in training every day – these are senior professionals.

“Everyone is astonished at how easy it is for him. I think there’s a lot more to come from him. If you’re a Villa fan, you should be excited.

“I give him advice considering what I have been through in the game already. But he’s clever on the pitch.

“He knows the game. He understands the game. He does things that people don’t expect.”

Meanwhile, it is belived Sherwood may turn his attentions to Manchester United centre-back Jonny Evans in a bid to shore up his defence for next season.

The Villa boss is known to want to sign defenders this summer with Burnley’s Kieran Tripper, who has a £3.5 million release clause, a target for right-back.

Tottenham and Everton are also thought to be interested in 27-year-old Evans who made his United debut back in 2007 and could command a fee of £10 million.

It is also understood that striker Andreas Weimann is closing in on an exit from Villa Park with Championship outfit Derby keen to snap up the Austrian.

Weimann has struggled for game-time.

Stourbridge fend off real challenge

Stourbridge 2nd XI 193-6 (55 overs) Tamworth 2nd XI 296-5 (55 overs) (Tamworth winning draw)

STOURBRIDGE fended off a strong challenge from Tamworth 1st XI in second place in Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premier league.

Stour on the other hand are holding up Division Two after a worse start of the season for four years.

Tamworth skipper Ben Maddox won the toss and batted first expecting the maximum 24 points.

Stour responded by taking the wickets of opener Richard Colyer off the bowling of Zain Ul Hassan for 15.

Seven runs later Jitesh Jivan-Patel accounted Neil Orton bowled for four in the 10th over.

No.3 Jacob Flower and Stuart Burrows worked their way through to 101 when Burrows was caught on the boundary hitting out at Afzal Junad for 51 in the 28th over

From the score of 101-3 Tamworth blasted their way to 296-5. Flower who scored 77 was run out from a boundary throw, Greg Jones ended his knock in the 46th over, skipper Ben Maddox remained not out on 82 off 78 and balls.

Mayhem

Dean Van Deventer struck 43 of 18 balls including four fours and three sixes in 25 minutes of mayhem that Stour took on bravely.

He fell, caught off Audy Alexander before the visitors could reach three hundred.

Stour’s innings started with Alex Bingham and skipper Matt Bradley taking on responsibilities hoping for a sound start.

It was Bingham who was first to go falling to a swinging delivery from Dean Van Deventer bowled for 16 in the fourth over.

The same bowler boosted his team’s fortunes by bowling Richard Bradley off the next delivery leaving Stour with a mountain to climb.

The rescue operation began. Alexander and Jjivan-Patel gritted out 13 overs and took the score from 160. Dean Van Deventer intervened again taking the wicket of Alexander or 72 off 114 balls with eight overs of the match remaining for Tamworth to take the 24 points.

Fear for speedster Gemili after fall



Marvin Bracy wins the 100m as Gemili takes a tumble at the finishing line in Birmingham

ADAM GEMILI was taken off the track in a wheelchair moments after becoming the sixth British man to break the 10-second barrier in a dramatic 100m final at the Birmingham Grand Prix.

Gemili crashed over the line behind winner Marvin Bracy and dropped to the floor where he was treated by paramedics as confirmation of his personal best flashed on the stadium scoreboard.

The extent of his injury was not immediately apparent but in a worst-case scenario, he could face a struggle to recover fully for August’s World Championships in Beijing.

The 21-year-old recorded a time of exactly 10 seconds in his semi-final heat and recorded 9.97sec in the final where he appeared to jolt upright on the line just as track-side pyrotechnics signalled the end of the race.

Gemili said: “I felt my hamstring go as I dipped, but I’m in good spirits. I can’t make a comment on the injury yet.

“Not the fairy-tale ending I wanted, but I’m proud to be the only Brit to go sub-10 and sub-20. British sprinting is really stepping up and I’m glad to be a part of it.”

Gemili had broken 10 seconds for the first time at a meeting in Bedford last week.

Mantom will boost his fitness over the summer

WALSALL midfielder Sam Mantom believes his summer fitness programme will allow him to hit the ground running when the new season kicks off.

The creative schemer, who missed the majority of the 2014/15 campaign with a knee injury, was amongst a group of players who attended a “summer maintenance” training session this week.

Mantom was joined by Reece Flanagan, Matt Preston, Jordan Murphy and James O’Connor at the two day boot-camp which has been designed by fitness coach Jon Whitney.

And the 23-year-old is making sure he follows every step of his pre-season program to ensure there is no repeat of the headache he suffered last year.

“There were some dark days with the knee injury, days when I thought about giving up because I didn’t know what was happening,” Mantom said.

“But it’s all sorted now, I’m enjoying my training and can’t wait for the season to start again.”

“Everyone had two weeks off after the season ended, pretty much doing nothing to allow the body to recover.

“But now, because I missed a large chunk of the season, I’m doing my own private programme where I work on things that I need to.”

As well as adding goals and assists to the Saddlers midfield, Mantom also hopes he can grow into a leader for Dean Smith’s side next season.

“I spoke to the gaffer at the end of the season and it was interesting because we both felt I’d become more of a leader.”

Wait and see what Villa can do, says Scott

WINGER Scott Sinclair believes Villa fans will see the true extent of their transformation under boss Tim Sherwood next season.

The former Tottenham manager has already gone on record to say he wants to rid the club of its “losing mentality” with Villa having battled relegation for the last four seasons.

Sherwood believes working with the players in the non-pressurised environment of pre-season will allow him to truly put his stamp on the club. And Sinclair can’t wait to get started.

“When the gaffer came in, he put his stamp on things but at the same time he had to ensure we were winning matches to keep us in the Premier League,” he said.

“Usually you have pre-season to get your ideas across but now he can work with us to prepare for the new

score



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Hales hit by defeat at Shifnal

RICHARD Evans says Tarryck Gabriel's batting was a crumb of comfort from Halesowen's weekend defeat at Shifnal.

Gabriel enjoyed his best innings of the season with 55 when chasing down what seemed to be a modest Shifnal total – but the home side ran out winners by 22 runs.

A suspect looking wicket made it look like a good toss to win and after reducing Shifnal to 17-2 the decision by Halesowen captain Faisal Shahid to bowl first was certainly vindicated.

However, Shahid dropped Shifnal's overseas star Muhamed Ayub early in his innings and Ayub and opener Collins then put together a partnership of 69 for the third wicket before Collins (33) was out leg before to the bowling of Zain Shahid.

One wicket quickly became three and from 86-2 Shifnal were reduced to five down without adding to the score with Tarryck Gabriel taking two wickets in as many balls.

Ayub was dismissed for 38 and Chadwick sent back without troubling the scorers. Only Sam Cotter (37 no) represented any sort of resistance to the Halesowen attack with Gabriel the pick of the bowlers finishing with impressive figures of 4-51 from his maximum 17 overs. Rich Brooker provided excellent back up to Gabriel at the other end and his 3-16 restricted Shifnal to 144 all out.

Halesowen's Hassan Qaumi and Juhar Johal put on 25 for the first wicket before Qaumi (11) fell to Edwards.

In form batter Ben Stebbings (14) was the next wicket to fall when he chased a wide delivery from Mountford and was caught behind. Shifnal ran out winners by 22 runs.

Totney takes top role at Tipton after Pugh resigns

TIPTON TOWN have carried out a shuffle after the resignation of first team manager Nicky Pugh.

Pugh told the club committee that he wished to step down for personal reasons, and his resignation was reluctantly accepted.

Town, who finished second-bottom of the Midland Football League Premier last season, have already appointed their first team coach Paul Totney as his successor.

Totney tweeted: "Proud to announce I'm the new 1st team manager at Tipton Town."

Tipton said in a statement: "The club would like to thank Nicky Pugh for all of his hard work and effort last season, in rebuilding the team under very difficult circumstances."

"After discussions over the weekend, first team coach Paul Totney has been offered and accepted the position of first team manager."

"Paul, who had already joined the club as part of a reformed management set-up, has a wealth of experience in management and a sound local knowledge of the game."

Stearman kept the skipper spot warm



Honoured - Richard Stearman of Wolves

IT was an honour to captain the team as a local lad – but Wolves' defender Richard Stearman insists he was just keeping the armband warm for Danny Bath.

Stearman stepped in for the final two games of the season as Wolves agonisingly missed out on a play-off place.

He took the captain's armband from injured Bath, who suffered a stress fracture of his left foot before the final two games against Wigan and Millwall.

Stearman has endured a rollercoaster few years at Molineux,

Football

Despite his age Stearman has become one of the veterans of the Wolves dressing room and he told his team mates what a Wolverhampton man being Wolves captain meant.

And he admitted he relished the responsibility of leading out the team.

Stearman said: "It's something I thoroughly enjoy and I was very honoured to lead the boys out."

"I must stress I was only keeping it warm for Danny but it's a job I thrive upon."

GLASSBOYS IN DOUBLE SWOOP

STOURBRIDGE FC have made a double swoop on neighbours and league rivals Halesowen Town.

The Glassboys have snapped up defender Kristian Green and midfielder Tom Tonks.

Green is a 24-year-old right-sided defender who enjoyed a highly successful 2012/13 season with Gornal Athletic before making the step up to join the Yeltz.

He quickly impressed for the Yeltz as they secured the Evo-stik League Division One South title in 2013/14. Another fine campaign at Premier Division level last season saw him named as a joint winner of the Players' Player of the Year award at Halesowen last month.

Tonks is a versatile and hard-working central midfielder player who also has a tremendous long throw in his armoury.

The 23-year-old joined Halesowen in March 2013 having previously played for Brocton and Tipton Town and he enjoyed two excellent full seasons at the Grove as the Yeltz won promotion and then they secured a comfortable mid-table position in their first season back at step three.

He won the Chairman's Player of the Year award for 2014/15.

Arrivals

The duo become the fourth and fifth new signings respectively made by Stour boss Gary Hackett so far this summer following on from the earlier arrivals of Lee Chilton, Charlie Price and Stuart Pierpoint.

Hackett said: "They're two players I'm really pleased to get on board."

"I've known Kristian for a while from when he was with Gornal. He's always impressed me. He's had two very good seasons at Halesowen and played well against us in both games."

"He gets up and down the wing, whether he's playing as a "straight" right back or more of a wing back."

"Everybody who you talk to speaks very highly of him and I think he's going to be a big part of what we're trying to do this season."

"Tom is a workaholic. But he's also got bags of ability and in a lot of ways he's a very under-rated player."

Welborn battles to keep title



Jason Welborn getting stuck in with Ryan Aston at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall

A keenly-contested points decision saw Jason Welborn retain the Midlands light middle-weight title after a cracking Saturday night main event at Wolverhampton Civic Hall, writes Craig Birch.

Huge debate followed the call from referee Terry O'Connor that left the puncher from Rowley Regis two points up at the final bell, despite visiting the canvas.

He was in real trouble come the fifth round as he sunk to the mat, Dudley's Ryan Aston switch hitting to land a damaging right hook to the sternum.

Welborn left answering the count until very late but gamely battled on and saw the round

out, despite slipping over in an ensuing exchange.

Aston's aloof southpaw stance bamboozled Welborn at the start, working the jab well and loading up with the other hand. There was real snap in his punches as he tagged him with stinging shots, but back came the champion with a salvo in the third.

He finally trapped Aston and let his hands go, with the challenger using his head to suck it up and duck his way out of trouble.

Most people had Aston well ahead as the contest went to the cards, but Welborn maintained his grip on the belt with a 96-94 victory. He said: "I really enjoyed that fight."

Quiet week but runs are still found

IT was a quiet week locally for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

However, there were still races to be found if you were prepared to look, even if you had to get the telescope out to find them.

A small group of runners travelled south to Herefordshire for the Magic Roundabout 10k.

A race over an undulating course with 90 per cent of the route on spring grass close cropped by grazing sheep, almost like running on a carpet but with some nasty climbs making it a challenging route.

The bonus on reaching the summits of these climbs being that runners are rewarded with fantastic views over the Welsh borders while they get their breath back.

Mark Gallimore was first back in 16th place in 44.49 taking third in his age group, Helen Tromans was 38th in 47.58, a time some three minutes quicker than last year and good enough to take 1st in her age group.

Sarah Cox was 166th in 1.02.57 with Debbie Richards finishing in 181st just ahead of her husband, Paul Richards, with them recording the same time of 1.05.15.

Russell Fox headed home to the East Midlands for the Ramathon, or the Derby Half Marathon, the 13.1 mile race starting and finishing in the shadow of Derby County's iPro Stadium.

Fox was first back for the club finishing in 1.49.42 in 863rd place ahead of Andy Weaver who clocked 2.06.38 to take 1758th place in a field of nearly three thousand runners.

Hackett gets Scarr as new signing

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett has made young central defender Daniel Scarr his sixth new signing of the summer.

Scarr impressed last season in his first full campaign at Redditch United after making the step up from Causeway United in June 2014.

He came youth ranks at Worcester City. He is the son of former Halesowen Town and Dudley Town goalkeeper Ian Scarr.

Stourbridge is holding a working party at the ground on Wednesday, June 17, at 6.45pm and any help from supporters with painting and other tasks would be greatly appreciated.

★★★

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Stourbridge Industrial Estate, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN

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Opening Hours: Sun-Thurs 11.30 am-11 pm, Fri-Sat 11.30 am-12 midnight
Not valid with any other offer. Expiry date: 06/09/15

the **COLLECTION special**

50% OFF ALL PIZZAS

COLLECTION ONLY

Discount applies to regular menu price. Premium crust and base charged extra

the **WEEKDAY special**

ANY CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA* + GARLIC PIZZA BREAD + COLESLAW

Medium **£11.99** Large **£13.99**

Mon-Thurs only. Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra

the **SAVER deal**

ANY CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA* + 1 SUMPTUOUS SIDE + 1 ANY SIDE

SMALL **£12.99** LARGE **£17.99** MEDIUM **£15.99**

Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra. Any side excludes combos and 14/21 chicken portions.

the **SECOND PIZZA deal**

BUY ONE PIZZA* GET A 2ND FOR

£5

First pizza at regular menu price. Second pizza of equal or lesser value. Premium crust and base charged extra

the **ONLINE deal**

33% OFF

WHEN YOU SPEND £30 OR MORE ONLINE AT WWW.DOMINOS.CO.UK

CODE: TTKSTVSN

Discount applies at regular menu price. Excludes ice creams and 14/21 chicken portions

the **FAMILY feast**

ANY 2 PIZZAS* + GARLIC PIZZA BREAD + POTATO WEDGES + BOTTLE OF DRINK

Medium or Large **£21.99** **£24.99**

Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra